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February 6, 2026

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

My name is Cassie Wilson and I'm the Legislative Manager at 1000 Friends of Oregon, and a disabled renter in Portland. I'm here to ask for your support of Senate Bill 1576 to increase the number of Type A accessible units being built in new multifamily housing.

We cannot solve the housing shortage without increasing accessible housing, and it cannot be optional to build more of it when the bar is already too low and doesn't meet our needs. The work also cannot all be placed on the shoulders of affordable housing developers, considering myself and many other disabled renters live in market rate housing and do not qualify for anything else.

I've also been reflecting a lot on Allen's testimony that he shared during our informational presentation, because when systems fail to meet our needs, disabled people must learn from each other's experiences for how to get by anyway. Allen has shared about how many times he has moved and the deep hope that the next apartment will be more accessible than the last. I'm still living in my first apartment, but am planning to move when my lease is up because of the inaccessibility I'm experiencing.

Hearing Allen's experiences means I'm going to take my search for my next apartment very seriously, because I know that whatever I find will likely still not meet my needs, but I don't want to keep having to move. If I hadn't heard Allen's experiences, I would probably be headed down the same path of repeat moves as a result of inaccessible housing. Now I can at least accept—as frustrating and unacceptable as it is—that I'm unfortunately just going to deal with my housing being inaccessible to me until we address the shortage.

I know I probably won't experience housing that is fully accessible to me until I can afford—if I can ever afford—to buy and renovate my own home. It shouldn't have to be like this. All people need shelter, and all people need safety and stability for a better quality of life. Sure, I have shelter in the form of my inaccessible apartment, and I am grateful for that when I know thousands of our neighbors are sleeping outside, many of them also disabled. But without truly accessible housing, disabled people will never have access to the safety and stability needed to thrive, not just survive.

Please vote yes on SB 1576 and join us in future efforts to continue addressing accessible housing barriers. Thank you and thank you Senator Patterson for championing this bill. Also I hope you watch the video I shared of an accessibility walk through of my apartment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1r1rujG3IM>

*Cassie Wilson*

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Legislative Manager

