



COMMUNITY
VISION

Community Vision
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February 7, 2023

RE: House Bill 2889

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

Community Vision urges you to support House Bill 2889 as part of the strategy to address Oregon's housing crisis. HB 2889 is an important opportunity to better plan, allocate resources, and stimulate the production of housing across the state.

Community Vision has been supporting people with disabilities since 1989, and in the past 30 years, we have developed a reputation for high quality, individualized supports. I am the Housing Access Director at Community Vision, and I am proud of our work to support low-income people with disabilities to find housing that meets their needs. Though, I must say, this work is far too hard, and our community has few options in the current housing landscape.

Tracking of accessibility features is nearly nonexistent. As a result, policy makers are in the dark about community needs for accessible housing and people with disabilities continue to struggle to find appropriate housing. And because the gap in accessible housing is a hidden issue, shrouded by a general lack of data about people with disabilities and our needs, the problems continue.

We support HB 2889 and offer the following points to better address the needs of people with disabilities:

- Defining “accessible housing” is critical to framing the issue and developing actionable strategies.
- Examining financial and regulatory impediments to developing accessible housing should be a requirement of the housing needs assessment.
- Disability status should be considered alongside other socioeconomic characteristics that impact housing production strategies.
- Accessibility should be included in analyses of existing and projected housing conducted every six years.
- The need for accessible housing should be included as a matter of statewide concern.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continued discussions of this bill.

Sincerely,

Allen Hines
Housing Access Director
Community Vision