

COURTNEY NERON MISSLIN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 13



OREGON STATE SENATE
Testimony in Support of SB 1576

February 9, 2026

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Housing and Development Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1576, a bill that takes an important step toward ensuring accessible housing for Oregonians with mobility challenges and disabilities.

Oregon faces a severe shortage of accessible housing. As we learned during the hearing, there is currently only one accessible home for every 66 people who have difficulty walking or who use a wheelchair. Less than half of one percent of housing units in Oregon are wheelchair accessible, leaving thousands of Oregonians without safe, attainable housing options to meet their basic needs.

Inaccessible housing is frustrating at best, unsafe or unattainable at worst. The lack of accessible housing units is limiting autonomy, dignity, and independence for thousands of Oregonians right now, and the need for accessible housing will only continue to grow. The fastest growing demographic in Oregon is adults over the age of 85. In order for people to age safely and independently in their communities, it requires planning.

SB 1576 helps address the crisis by setting reasonable minimum standards. The bill requires that 10% of new housing built with state funds meet Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards, and that at least 10% of multifamily developments of over 15 units be Type A accessible housing. These requirements will ensure that the housing coming online in the future more accurately reflects the needs of our changing population.

Increasing the supply of accessible housing is also a matter of housing fairness. Building codes exist to ensure that the homes meet basic health and safety needs, and SB 1576 brings Oregon closer to meeting those standards for everyone. By increasing

the number of accessible units built in the future, this bill helps ensure that people with disabilities and older adults are not excluded from the housing market because of how homes were designed.

The responsibility to provide housing that is accessible must not fall solely on our affordable housing providers. Expanding accessible housing must be undertaken by multifamily developers, as well. We need accessible units across all communities and income levels. While there may be added construction costs to building these units, the long-term benefit of inclusive, safe, and available housing outweighs those costs.

The legislature needs to take action to ensure this problem doesn't persist into the future. I urge your support for SB 1576 so that homes in our state match Oregonians' needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron Misslin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Courtney" and "Neron" stacked above "Misslin".

Senator Courtney Neron Misslin