

Testimony Template in Support of SB 1576 : Accessible Housing Act of 2026

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

My name is Gaby Villaseñor, and I live in Portland. I am writing today in **strong support of SB 1576**, which would increase the number of accessible homes available to Oregonians with disabilities and older adults.

Across Oregon, accessible housing is extremely difficult to find. Many homes have steps, narrow doorways, or bathrooms that cannot be used safely by people with mobility challenges. For those who have trouble walking—and for the growing number of older adults in our state—these barriers can make it nearly impossible to find a place to live.

As a case manager working with adults with disabilities, I have work with clients who use and rely on their mobility aids to get around, like wheelchairs and walker. They have struggled to find affordable housing that is also accessible. They have run into issues of finding homes they might be able to rent, but can't due to steep slopes and steps just to enter a ground floor apartment, which severely limits their housing options. There have been instances where people must settle for inaccessible housing that results in risks to their physical safety.

SB 1576 takes a practical and much-needed step forward by requiring that new housing include a higher percentage of units built to recognized accessibility standards. This will gradually increase the supply of homes that people with disabilities can actually use, and it will help ensure that Oregon's housing stock reflects the real needs of our population.

Improved accessibility promotes fairness, dignity, and the ability for every Oregonian to live safely and independently. SB 1576 helps address the root problem: there are far too few accessible homes available today.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass SB 1576.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to addressing Oregon's housing needs.

Thank you,

Gaby Villaseñor