



House Committee on Housing  
**Testimony in Support of HB 2336**

Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations  
February 18, 2021

AARP is pleased to support HB 2336, which seeks to establish a standard definition of “visitability” in the Oregon Residential Specialty Code using the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) definition of Type C Units.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and over 503,000 in Oregon. We work to improve the quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families, including expanding housing options for affordable, accessible, and safe homes for all Oregonians.

AARP research shows that nearly 80% of adults age 50 and older want to remain in their homes and communities as they age. Unfortunately, more than 30% would require home modifications like ramps, chair lifts, wider doorways, and bathroom updates to stay in their home. Many others lack basic features that make them even visitable.

Visitability features in homes enable older adults to age in place and allow people with physical disabilities to remain involved in family and community life. While several federal laws require that certain residential settings meet a set of accessibility standards, these laws do not generally require single-family homes (which make up more than 70% of the nation’s housing stock), duplexes, triplexes, or multistory townhouse buildings without an elevator to meet any accessibility standards.

Oregon communities will benefit from having a broadly accepted definition of visitable dwellings—Type C accessible units—in the appendix of the residential building code. HB 2336 will provide clarity and direction to policymakers and builders. It does not require or incentivize building visitable dwellings, but offers an added tool to local jurisdictions that may choose to adopt the code for their community.

As one of the fastest growing 65+ populations in the West, the need for more accessible and visitable homes in our communities continue to grow. HB 2336 offers Oregon communities a new tool that jurisdictions can use to enhance functionality, independence, and safety of homes for everyone.

On behalf of over half million AARP Oregon members ages 50-plus statewide, we urge you to pass HB 2336.