



SO Health-E

Advocating for Health Equity

February 4, 2026
Re: Yes on SB 1576

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

My name is Michelle Glass, and I submit this testimony on behalf of SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition. We strongly support SB 1576, which strengthens accessibility standards for new housing across Oregon.

SO Health-E works closely with communities across Southern Oregon to identify the issues most impacting family and individual well-being. Since 2021, housing has consistently been one of the top concerns raised by our members. People are not only struggling to find housing that is affordable, but housing that is accessible, usable, and appropriate for people with disabilities, older adults, and families with changing needs. The lack of accessible housing is a significant driver of housing instability and displacement in our region.

SB 1576 directly responds to these concerns by ensuring that new housing is designed to be accessible from the start, particularly when public resources are involved. By aligning state building codes and housing investments with federal accessibility standards, this bill helps prevent barriers that too often force people out of their homes or limit their housing options altogether.

At a time when Oregon is facing a growing housing crisis and ongoing cost of living challenges, SB 1576 is both urgent and necessary. While questions about enforcement should continue to be addressed through implementation, the strong support from housing and disability advocacy organizations underscores the bill's feasibility and importance.

Accessible housing is not a niche issue. It is a foundation for health, independence, and community stability. SB 1576 moves Oregon closer to a housing system that reflects dignity, equity, and inclusion for all.

We urge you to vote YES on SB 1576 and advance a policy that responds to community needs and strengthens Oregon's commitment to accessible housing.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Michelle Glass
Policy Strategist,
SO Health-E, the Southern Oregon Regional Health Equity Coalition