



March 23, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter, Chair
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Legislature
Salem Oregon

Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

O4AD, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities, is pleased to share our support of HB 3309, which considers accessibility in affordable housing. According to census data, nearly 1 in 4 individuals experiencing homelessness also have a disability. As we study ways to increase housing growth and help people to secure housing and move out of homelessness, it is critical that we also look at the development of housing, that housing needs of those with disabilities must be a part of that planning. Housing that is developed yet cannot be accessed by a person with a disability excludes a sector of those experiencing homelessness.

Our Case Managers throughout Medicaid, Older Americans Act programs and other services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities have seen the devastating impact that lack of adequate housing has had on vulnerable populations. Yet, we face the inability to find alternatives for these individuals due to accessibility within the available housing options. HB 3309 with the -1 amendment is a first step to start acknowledging and considering how to address this current gap in Oregon's work to improve housing access for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker
Oregon Association on Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities