

Submitter: Lisa Tschudi

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB444

My daughter is a young adult wheelchair user. I urge you to support this bill. I value the building and rental of homes which are fully wheelchair accessible. We have had a hard time finding apartments and homes throughout the years which would allow for my daughter to use her chair throughout. There are simply not enough homes with flat or ramped entry, wide doors and all the other components of accessibility requirements. That means families like mine are very limited in where we can live, and also face greater than necessary challenges whenever we can 'make do' with extra direct personal assistance for my daughter. Additionally, anyone can develop a need for mobility assistance at any time. I have seen other families face additional complexity to their family member's recovery from surgery or illness because their home wasn't wheelchair(or walker) accessible. It is extremely difficult to get a home quickly adapted for wheelchair use at the same time as one is facing a new injury or illness. It's usually more expensive to adapt an existing home than any difference in price to build a home accessibly from the start. It's far better that as many homes as possible be wheelchair accessible from the time they are built and really no reason not to. Able bodied people can also benefit from accessible homes when it comes to moving furniture more easily, strollers for babies, etc...