



February 3, 2025

Senator Khanh Pham
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 444

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

The Oregon Housing Alliance supports Senate Bill 444. This bill seeks to address the severe unmet need Oregonians have for accessible housing. The housing needs for people with disabilities have never been met; 1 in 4 people have a disability and 1 in 8 people have difficulties walking but only 1 in 100 housing units are estimated to be accessible. SB 444 will address this unmet need in three ways:

1. Requiring 10% of housing built with state funds to comply with the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS);
2. Increase building code requirements for Type A units (Oregon's most accessible type of unit) to 10% of unites if the building has 10 or more units; and
3. Expand the Fair Housing Act's design and construction requirements to include triplexes.

The need for Senate Bill 444 is clear. If we pass Senate Bill 444, we will not only increase housing opportunities for People living with disabilities but also for older adults. Older adults are the highest growing demographic facing homelessness.

Thank you for your dedication to seeking solutions to Oregon's affordable housing and homelessness crises. Senate Bill 444 represents important steps toward providing stable, affordable housing for all Oregonians. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
rmarkillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org