

Submitter: Dena Wilder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB444

Committee Members:

I am Dena Wilder, resident of Portland, and have friends and clients who need the world to be more accessible. I may need the world to be more accessible for me someday. What a more beautiful world it would be if it was made so that we could all invite those we care about into our homes and they wouldn't have to struggle with stairs or bathrooms that are too small for them. SB 444 begins to envision this world. It is a small slice of how we want the world to be. Let us start by at least requiring new buildings to have a percentage of dwellings that are accessible.

I work with someone who has an apartment that is designed specifically for his body and it gives him such incredible dignity and Independence. Unfortunately the rest of the world is not built for him but at least when he goes home, it is a sanctuary. I have had friends that have had to crawl upstairs, crawl into bathrooms, and had totally inaccessible kitchens, all because there are not enough accessible units for them to live in. This bill is asking for a better world and more dignity for people with disabilities. Please pass SB 444!