

To: Senator Pham, Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Sarah Noack, Director of Brokerage Services, UCP Oregon

Re: Support for Senate Bill 444, accessible housing standards

February 6, 2025

Chair Pham and Members of the Committee,

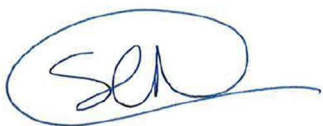
My name is Sarah Noack, and I oversee United Cerebral Palsy's two in-home support services brokerages – UCP Mentors and UCP Connections where we serve nearly 900 people who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Clackamas or Multnomah County. Over my time working within this community, a few needs arise consistently, and at the top of that list is accessible, affordable housing.

In addition, current data predicts that 25%, or 1 out of 4 workers, who are 20 years of age today will experience a disabling condition before they retire. Given this, designing homes to be accessible right from the start benefits fellow Oregonians today, and ourselves and loved ones into the future.

Recent point-in-time surveys report that up to 80% of unhoused people in Multnomah County report experiencing disability. As Oregon invests in addressing the housing crisis, SB444 would be critical to ensuring that people who are currently unhoused can truly access safe, comfortable homes.

Beyond the data, it's both financially wise and the right thing to do. Universal Design principals, consistent housing, and reducing barriers to freedom and independence have been proven to save money and improve social determinants. SB444 ensures that people with disabilities are at the forefront of developing our communities into the future.

Sincerely,



Sarah Noack (She/They)
Director of Brokerage Services
United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon
UCP Connections and UCP Mentors
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