



305 NE 102nd Ave Suite 100
Portland OR 97220

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

From: Glenna Hayes, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections

Re: Support for SB 444, accessible housing standards

Chair Pham and members of the committee,

Dear Chair and Committee members,

My name is Glenna Hayes, and I work as the Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator for UCP Connections and UCP Mentors. Together, we help roughly 900 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who live in their own homes or with family in every community in Multnomah and Clackamas County. Our goal is to connect people with what matters most to them and support them in making important decisions that affect their lives.

SB444 focuses on the important need for creating housing that everyone can access in our community. People often say that making places accessible costs more money, but the truth is that including accessibility from the beginning can actually save time, money, and resources that our community really needs. At some point in our lives, most of us will face a disability, whether due to aging or an unfortunate accident. So, why not design our homes to be accessible right from the start?

Finding a good place to live can be tough for many people with disabilities, especially since they often have lower incomes. When you add in the need for homes that are easy to access, a lot of them rely on family or group homes instead of being able to live on their own. We need to address the ongoing challenges that people with disabilities have faced in having equal opportunities. SB444 is a positive move towards creating a more inclusive and accessible housing system for everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Glenna Hayes

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors