

From: [Ellen Buckingham](#)
To: CBSC@DGS
Cc: Natasha.reyes@disabilityrightsca.org
Subject: Proposed CBC Amendments
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:38:19 PM

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cbsc@dgs.ca.gov

California Building Standards Commission
Attention: Mia Marvelli, Executive Director
2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130
Sacramento, CA 95833-2936

Re: California Building Standards Commission – Proposed CBC Amendments

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on proposed amendments to the Access Code. I am writing to express strong support for the joint HCD/DSA proposed amendments in HCD Item 1 Sec. 202 – “Public Housing” and DSA Item 2.09 Ch. 2 Sec. 202 – “Public Housing”.

I am a developmental disabilities RN providing care for regional center families with medically fragile children. Over the years I have worked in homes where parents have had to carry their 90 lb. children up a flight of stairs to put them to bed. I have had to lift children into inaccessible bathtubs and seen injuries as a result of uncontrollable arms hitting narrow hallway walls. I see parents who cannot both work because they are unable to get enough reliable care for their child with disabilities, which makes housing choices fewer. Needless to say, the parents often wind up with injuries due to their inaccessible living situations. I also have been noticing more homeless people in wheelchairs living on the streets!

The percentage of single level homes is decreasing rapidly. Here in the bay area (I live in Scotts Valley) I see, almost exclusively, 3 story townhomes being built. The “accessible” ones have zero entry. That is it. The downstairs room in back of the garage is like a prison for a person with disabilities. Unless the individual has huge resources (few with disabilities do) they are stuck in the lower level away from the living room and kitchen.

We can do much better. We can build flats instead. We must make more accessible homes for people with disabilities. Following the Disability Rights suggestions would just be a step in the right direction.

There are laws that require this type of affordable, accessible housing. The proposal to change the definition of “public housing” will clarify those laws in the Building Code. This will lead to more accessible housing in California. For people with disabilities, that means they can find

housing the they can afford and that will have the features they need to live a self-sufficient life in my community.

I fully support the comments submitted by Disability Rights California. And I urge the Commission to adopt these changes to make affordable, accessible housing available to our clients/people like me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Buckingham, RN, CDDN

Cc: Natasha Reyes, Disability Rights California, Natasha.reyes@disabilityrightsca.org
