

**From:** [Richard Skaff](#)  
**To:** [CBSC@DGS](mailto:CBSC@DGS)  
**Cc:** [Natasha Reyes](#)  
**Subject:** California Building Standards Commission – Proposed CBC  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 4:41:33 PM

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April 29, 2020

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 member of the Commission’s Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Executive Director of Designing Accessible Communities, a 501C3 non-profit organization that I created to educate both public entities and private businesses that are open to the public, about compliance with both state and federal codes and standards relating to (built environment) accessibility. I have also worked with the California agencies that develop the State's accessibility codes and participated as a member of most of the States accessibility code advisory committees, including Housing and Community Development.

Based on my personal experience as a person with a disability, my work for 15 years with the City of San Francisco, first as a Chief Building Inspector, then Public Works ADA Coordinator, and finally as the Deputy Director of the Mayors Office on Disability, and through my interaction (state-wide) with members of the disability community, and as a member of H&CD’s Advisory Committee, I have seen the damage the lack of affordable and accessible housing has had on the State’s disability community. On many occasions during my tenure with the City of San Francisco, I was contacted by local residents with disabilities who contacted me with the hope that I could help them find both affordable and accessible housing. In most cases, there was no affordable and accessible housing available.

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 they can afford and that will have the features they need to live a self-sufficient and independent life.

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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,

Richard Skaff, Executive Director  
Designing Accessible Communities  
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Cell: 707-755-1681

Cc: Natasha Reyes, Disability Rights California,