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**To:** [CBSC@DGS](mailto:CBSC@DGS)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on ACCESS Proposals  
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To the CA Building Commission:

On behalf of NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, a nonprofit community-based organization serving Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and DeafPlus individuals across 24 counties in northeastern California, I write in strong support of strengthening California's building standards to ensure greater accessibility in public housing.

These proposed code changes are long overdue and represent an important step toward achieving meaningful accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. They will help bring California into alignment with the final critical requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a landmark civil rights law that has protected the rights of Deaf and disabled individuals for more than five decades.

Accessible housing is essential to independent living, community participation, health, safety, and equal opportunity. For many individuals with disabilities, inaccessible housing continues to create unnecessary barriers that limit their ability to live independently and fully participate in society.

The proposals before the Commission also support compliance with California Government Code Section 11135 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reinforcing California's longstanding commitment to equal access and nondiscrimination. By adopting these strengthened standards, California can continue to lead the nation in advancing equity, accessibility, and civil rights for all residents.

We respectfully urge the California Building Standards Commission to approve these important accessibility improvements and ensure that public housing is accessible, usable, and inclusive for current and future generations of Californians with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

~Sheri

Sheri A. Farinha, M.SpEd., CEO

NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing

Pronouns (she, her, hers)

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