

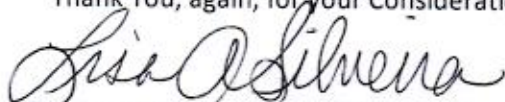
Good Morning Chairman Representative Stephen Casey and Committee Members,

My name is Lisa A. Silveira and I am a Service Coordinator at the Arc of Blackstone Valley. The Arc of Blackstone Valley is a non-profit agency that supports over 200 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. I am also a constituent of District 14 in East Providence. I acknowledge that you are hearing bill number H7564 and would like to express that I am in favor of the passage of this bill. As a Service Coordinator, I know that access to accessible housing is an important concern for consumers and their families. While there are some families that have equipped their homes to be more accessible by installing ramps, step free entrances, lifting systems and grab bar reinforcements, at their own expense. As family members and caregivers age or pass away, there are definite concerns that their family members will not have available accessible housing or the means to modify their existing home if or when physical capacity or increased support is needed.

This bill would ensure that all new publicly funded housing developments with four (4) or more units are more accessible and address a significant housing shortage for people with disabilities, older adults and more. The bill requires 10% of units to be fully accessible (Type A) and the other 25% be adaptable (Type B). It calls for the Rhode Island Department of Housing to enforce these rules.

The idea of guaranteed accessible housing opportunities would provide peace of mind to these families that their loved ones would be able to obtain housing that fulfills their physical needs on day one well into the future.

Thank You, again, for your Consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa A. Silveira".

Lisa A. Silveira, Service Coordinator

Arc of Blackstone Valley