

Name: Kathy
Bill Number: HB 7063
Viewpoint: **FOR**

Lee and Josh are a part of our agency's 24-hour residential support program. Lee is a 50-year-old person living with cerebral palsy, relying on a wheelchair to ambulate. Josh, is a 54-year-old person living with cerebral palsy, also relying on a wheelchair to ambulate. Lee and Josh live in separate apartments, but in the same apartment complex in Providence, allowing them to pool their funding to attain 24-hour staffing needs. Their staff assists with self-care, cooking, and any social activities they have. Due to this need, both must stay in the apartments where they currently live so that they have access to a fully handicapped-accessible apartment, relying on lift systems to move from bed to chair, and chair to toilet, and staffing. There is a severe lack of accessible housing for people who need accessibility and mobility for wheelchairs. If either decided to move, one would have to ensure the other can move, so that we can maintain staff. However, not enough apartments for our needs are available. Their neighborhood in Providence is very unsafe, having had many incidents of robbery, assault, and bullying over the years. They are not able to spend much time outside safely and comfortably. Please support HB 7063 to maintain my independence and my safety, while providing a greater number of accessible apartments. This bill will allow Lee and Josh to maintain independence, with a choice of where they can reside and accommodate interests and activities, further enhancing and improving their quality of life. Thank you for your time and consideration.