

Many challenges faced by people with disabilities are avoidable if society didn't set up the challenges in the first place. Lack of curb cuts, lack of ramps, lack of elevators, lack of accessible handles, accessible counters, accessible turnstiles, we can go on.

If society were to address the needs for all in every planning stage of construction and implementation, many daily challenges would cease to exist. Rather than consider a way to fit in accessibility afterwards, starting with inclusiveness first will make the difference. These design concepts will assist young mothers with strollers. It will assist delivery people, moving companies, older people, and many others, as well as the disability community.

*Georgia did it with their "New Home Access Act 2011". New homes are now built with ramps rather than stairs. All doors are thirty-two inches wide. Outlets and wall switches are accessible.

*A city in Illinois requires that all new houses be built for accessibility. 3,500 new homes are accessible.

*A county in Arizona did it. 22,000 homes have been built so far. Officials have gone on record saying that the access features didn't change the cost of construction.

These changes have proven to reduce the enormous financial impact nursing homes have on the state and national budget. These changes allow people to stay independent, in their own homes.

Making everything accessible to all in the first place would help us develop a better, more inclusive society.

We have an opportunity to begin a movement; to change a society's attitudes, and change the way things have always been done. We have a chance to make it better. Start the change with bill number HB 7063. If it doesn't start here, when and where will it start?

Links:

* <https://visitability.org/georgia-state-fact-sheet/>

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<https://up.codes/viewer/phoenix/ibc-2018/chapter/11/accessibility#11>

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