

Good afternoon

I am writing in support of bill H7377

Accessible housing is a need in Rhode Island. Statistics from FEMA if they were to evacuate the state of Rhode Island today 55% of Rhode Islanders are registered as a mobility aid evacuation. That means between our disability community and our elder community 55% of our community needs accessible housing. We have less than 2.3% of housing that wheelchair users could get into in the entire state.

Which means if we can't get that to live there for ourselves, we can never visit family or friends. We can never go anywhere other than our own homes or another home of a friend who may be using Mobility eight as well. The ADA was signed 34 years ago this and we need to do better. By supporting this bill and starting the process of making it mandatory for people to follow the ADA laws and guidelines for individual housing out and about in the community is what we really need. A 20 or 30-year-old, and a wheelchair should not have the only option of living in a manner or a high-rise . A family with children in wheelchairs or the children are fine and the mother of father happens to be in a wheelchair like me should be able to live out and about in their communities in a home built for them. I support H7377. It is a starch, but we still have a long way to go.

Thank You,

Tina Guenette

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President / CEO / Founder

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United States Access Board- Public Member

Governor's Commission on Disability

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"Don't just SIT there.... make a DIFFERENCE"