



## IN SUPPORT OF H2569 An Act expanding the availability of adaptable housing for people with disabilities and seniors

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, a non-profit, all-volunteer, statewide coalition advocating for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers, is pleased to have the opportunity to provide testimony in support of legislation. One of our key goals is to advance the urgent need to address an important aspect of the current “housing crisis” in the Commonwealth by promoting more affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities and older adults. **H.2569** will, clearly, tackle this area of concern to many Massachusetts residents.

This legislation updates state disability rights legislation that have fallen behind federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards in the past decade. The key action this bill takes to make Massachusetts more accessible is by making changes to the Architectural Access Board (AAB), a state-level board that develops and enforces regulations designed to make public buildings accessible to, functional for, and safe for use by persons with disabilities.

If passed, this bill will add an additional member of the disability advocacy community to the AAB. It also extends the AAB’s regulatory authority to employee areas of public buildings, expands its authority to spaces around buildings like parking lots and sidewalks, and aligns the body’s definition of “public building” with ADA regulations.

Much of the language of this bill was included in the House version of the 2022 Economic Development bill, but was later dropped as part of the process to pass a narrow bill during informal sessions.

Dignity Alliance looks forward to working with members of the Committee and Committee Staff to advance this important legislation. If you have any questions, please contact me at [dickmoore1943@gmail.com](mailto:dickmoore1943@gmail.com) or (617) 413 – 7734. Thank you for the opportunity to share our position relative to S.154/H.253.

Submitted by Richard T. Moore, Chair, Legislative Work Group, Dignity Alliance  
Massachusetts.

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Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. We are committed to advancing new ways of providing long-term services, support, living options, and care, while respecting choice and self-determination. Through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies, this mission will become reality throughout the Commonwealth. As a non-profit, all-volunteer, grass-roots coalition of aging and disability service and advocacy organizations and supporters, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts works to secure fundamental change. For more information on the “Dignity Dozen +1” 2025-2026 Legislative package, contact Former Senator Richard T. Moore, Legislative Chair, at [rmoores8743@charter.net](mailto:rmoores8743@charter.net) or visit the Dignity Alliance web site. [info@dignityAllianceMA.org](mailto:info@dignityAllianceMA.org)