



September 20, 2024

Dustin Curb  
Managing Director  
State Building Code Council  
Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

Re: Petition to amend 51.51.0330

I am writing in support of the petition we submitted to the SBCC.

We at the Council are routinely involved in conversation with municipalities all over Washington about the rights and development of adult family homes. A common conversation with these jurisdictions is about additional requirements being applied to a home requesting a building inspection relevant to this WAC section. This inspection is required for a family to apply to become an adult family home. This inspection is only a part of the request to be licensed as an adult family homes. These additional requirements often assume the property is already operating as an AFH.

Further, we believe this change is needed to ensure adherence to the legislative and judicial recognition of the residential nature of adult family homes. As adult family homes provide housing and care to elderly and disabled adults, ordinances and policies that create additional barriers to development of an AFH may be considered discriminatory against individuals with disabilities in violation of RCW 49.60.224.

DSHS estimates a quadrupling of the 85 plus population over the next several years. Adult family homes are a critical part of the long-term care system and the only growing sector. Even with the growth of these resources, there is still a need for additional caregivers and housing to meet the coming demand. We hope to work with the SBCC to eliminate barriers and reduce confusion as we support our members in meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.

I am happy to make myself available for further discussion.

Sincerely,

John Ficker

Executive Director