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The way this legislation and many other housing policies are often portrayed would likely make someone not as engaged think these policies aren't wanted. I'm here to tell everyone they are.

I didn't realize it until I started working at Sightline, but my father lived in a remodeled garage apartment after his first divorce and a mother-in-law suite after his second. I was around nine-years-old and then 16-years-old at those times--and obviously didn't see any difference between those homes and a "normal" house when I visited. My dad was middle class the whole time, yet he desperately needed help from his friends with those convenient, more affordable, homes in order to get back on his feet.

Now, I also know ADUs cut emissions by nearly half per household--due to energy, materials, and transportation--compared to a single-detached home, including modern McMansions. So to those griping about small spaces and asking about the children, I say to you, is it not more important children have a planet to live on? Again, as a child, I clearly didn't have any qualms. I still don't. And neither does Sightline.

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ADUs give property owners more autonomy over their financial burdens and their friends' or families' needs--like my dad's. Unlike McMansions, ADUs can create accessible housing with no steps and accessible features which ensures more housing for our aging residents and/or those living with disabilities.

On a related note: When a McMansion replaces a modest home, it's a sign of Seattle's growing disparities, which is unfortunately exactly what city policies incentivize across 75% of Seattle. ADUs are one small step to curb such extravagant space-taking by the wealthy. They instead make room for at least one more household on the very same lot.