

Local Government Committee Members,

HB 1797 can sound like sweeping change to a neighborhood--and it is a pretty big deal--but I implore you to understand that it is an opt-in type of change that is by no means drastic. While altering and expanding land use codes and partnering zoning restrictions means fundamentally changing what's allowed, HB 1797 does not mean density en masse will suddenly appear and ruin people's lives. In fact, the majority of people I've talked to who built ADUs have said neighbors were at first unhappy about the idea but once the ADU/DADU was constructed, those same neighbors realized they couldn't tell if the structure was there or not from the street or their house and quickly thought it was really cool--some even wanting an ADU/DADU themselves! What they envisioned as a huge change was in fact not a negative experience.

This bill will not be THE solution to fix our housing crisis, but it is one crucial puzzle piece alongside a slew of other pieces that must be included to appropriately create the sustainable, affordable, diverse housing we need as a very diverse (in age, abilities, race, and class) community. While some may feel HB 1797 isn't doing enough, taking this step to legalize ADUs and DADUs is better than taking no step at all. And there are virtually no true downsides to approving more housing options, especially such people-centered ones as this.

ADUs and DADUs serve as a crucial options for homeowners and families in need at a time when child care can reach astronomical costs of \$2,000 a month in King county (the median is around \$1,300 a month), when across Washington, child care typically takes up [23% of income](#)--on top of typically 45% of income that goes toward housing for Washingtonians--and at a time when isolated seniors struggle to find affordable housing. ADUs and DADUs help foster a stronger sense of community, allow the chance for seniors to age in community, allow intergenerational living, and help families find suitable options for nannies and children, college students, and those living with disabilities who benefit from close-proximity supervision and access.

We should make these housing options as accessible as possible, alleviating extraneous fines and fees for building such housing so that financial burdens don't befall those already struggling to make ends meet who simply see ADUs and DADUs as a way to fill the gap.

In addition, ADUs and DADUs help our environment! Their carbon foot print is just nearly half that of a typical single family home--due to [car-related](#) carbon emissions and [utilities](#). As people across the globe and here in our backyards will face drastic medical, migration, and financial changes due to climate change, we must allow options that sidestep further damage to our climate.

I am a renter, a millennial paying student loans two years out of college; I am a daughter of an isolated and aging mother in rural Washington; I am a voter. Please pass this legislation without amendments.

Thank you all for your dedication and time.

Kelsey Hamlin