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Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 11:34 AM
To: OHFA Design and Architectural Standards
Cc: Corey.Ferguson@dodd.ohio.gov; Welsh, Jeannette; Steven.Beha@dodd.ohio.gov
Subject: Comments- 2027 Design and Architectural Standards

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Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2027 Draft Design and Architectural Standards (2027 Draft DAS) and for your thoughtful engagement related to the redrafting of these standards. DODD appreciated the opportunity to provide oral feedback during March 10, 2026, DAS Stakeholder Input Session targeted to Universal Design and accessibility advocates. DODD initially offered recommendations in our letter dated April 1, 2026; we are re-submitting it to ensure it is considered in the current public record. Having reviewed the recent 2027 Draft DAS, we offer the following supplementary comments.

- OHFA's decision to remove the Universal Design Section and Appendix A from previously existing DAS will have a significant impact since it will affect 90-95 percent of the non-504 units created by OHFA. This decision is also likely to have negative repercussions for people with disabilities.
- DODD respects the flexibility the 2027 Draft DAS extends to developers allowing them to design units that increase affordability. At this time when affordability is a legitimate concern, DODD understands the need to remove regulatory barriers. However, DODD reiterates the concern that by allowing developers to choose from a "pick list" of accessibility features, OHFA will unintentionally encourage the creation of inaccessible units which neither meet the needs of people with physical disabilities or those with ambulatory difficulties.
- DODD encourages OHFA to align their guidelines and policies to meet the needs outlined in OHFA's 2026 Needs Assessment which shows a gap between Ohio's existing housing stock and those in need of zero-step and/or accessible housing.

Thank you for taking our comments and we encourage OHFA to consider increasing their engagement with disability stakeholders and those with lived experience to discuss measures which will increase accessibility for people with physical disabilities and ambulatory issues, and address developer concerns related to cost. Please let us know if we can help, we appreciate the ongoing collaboration and partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

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