

**YAKIMA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**April 12, 2023**  
**HEARING EXHIBIT LIST**

**File Nos.: LRN2020-00009/SEP2022-00037 – Accessory Dwelling Units (YCC 19.18.020)**

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EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE: 4/12/23  
FILE NO. LRN2020-00009  
SEP2022-00037

To: Long Term Planning Committee,

Hello, my name is Marcie Evans and I am a Hospice Registered Nurse. I am here to discuss the proposal of changing the current square footage of an Additional Dwelling Unit from 1000 square feet to the proposed 1200 square feet. My point of reference comes from a caregiving situation and what a difference 200 square feet can actually mean or do in this situation. Before I get started, I want to make sure you all have copies of the pictures ~~I am going to be referencing in my plea.~~ *that further illustrate the restrictions in my new home.*

*I* recently was blessed to care for my sister for 3 months in my home as she was dying. Now to set the picture my house is a new 9-month-old mobile home and is currently 74 square feet over the 1000 square foot allowance. It is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with an average kitchen, living room and a laundry room off the kitchen model. It is placed on a 10-acre plot of land that currently has a shop that is being constructed. To give you some background I am one of 6 children and will likely be caring for some of my sibling as they age or become in need of my Hospice nursing skills. I have already buried a brother this last June that I cared for also. My reference point is not only professional but personal as well.

Before I go any further, I would like you all to take a minute and imagine yourselves in the future maybe 10 or 20 years. Quite possibly sooner. I need you to think about your parents, possibly a spouse or sibling. What kind of a place or atmosphere would you or them like to spend their last days.

Think about the place and space that might be needed to extend that care to them. Where would that care be given if not at a family home. Think about where you would want to spend your last days, I BET it is not at a facility or hospital.

So for a moment lets talk about the logistics of caring for someone in a house environment. Much of the time there is equipment that makes caregiving not only more convenient but safer. Equipment that all takes precious square footage. Things like a hospital bed, a bedside table, possibly an oxygen concentrator, maybe a wheelchair or a walker or probably both. Eventually there could be a need for a commode or a bathing chair. All of this equipment is small individually but together they take lots of space.

So let me tell you about my sister. When she arrived from the hospital, we got her into the house and there she as remained since. She is too sick and too impaired to leave. We had a wheelchair and a walker at first but now she is so weak she is confined to her bed most of the day. We attempted to give her a room of her own however, the wheelchair at 30 inches wide barely makes it down the 32 inch hall and in the 32 inch inner doorways. ( SEE PIC B.) The house was designed so that it has a 90-degree angle to get into either bedroom. This was impossible to do with the wheelchair so it became necessary to get a hospital bed and have it placed in the living room. This still allows her to interact with our family and her loved ones. Placing the bed in the living room limits the available room to

sit and visit. We are unable to have more than a few visitors at a time. This is hard with our large family. (SEE PIC A). As my sister grows weaker going to the bathroom has become yet another challenge. Remember the 30 inch wheelchair now imagine you need to get a loved one into a restroom that only has 40 inches from counter to toilet like my house. Don't forget the 32-inch doorways issue. The wheelchair does finally get in and then my sister requires help getting from the wheelchair to the toilet. This became too risky a feat because her safety was so imperative. This is a situation that is crying for someone to get hurt. I could not risk her or myself getting hurt. So now my sister is no longer able to get to the restroom to void and now she is forced to use the commode in the living room/kitchen area. Again, adding more equipment and taking up more room in an already shrinking living room. This may not seem like a big deal until it is you that has to use the commode maybe in front of your adult children or grandchildren. Not only has my sister lost her health, her independence, but also now her privacy and dignity. This truly happens more times than I can count. When this happened to my sister she became depressed and now just wants it all to be "over". This has not helped my mental health at all either I have to say.

We are looking to convert some of our shop to living space in hopes to give us the ability to return some dignity to her.

When it comes time for your loved one to pass, maybe there is a few days to hours and the family wants and needs to be at

the bedside. Well now half of the living room is filled with so much equipment that there is no real place to be that is comfortable for the grieving family. How do you decide who stays and who goes. It truly is tragic if a loved one passes and someone or maybe even you couldn't be there due to space.

In conclusion ~~I want you again to~~ <sup>again</sup> think about your parents, spouse or other loved ones. Imagine that ~~they~~ <sup>your loved one</sup> tell you that they do not want to die in a hospital or a nursing home. They want to die surrounded by their loved ones in the comfort of their home ~~if not theirs than a~~ <sup>or the home of a</sup> loved one. Now imagine ~~that~~ <sup>e</sup> that you have the ability to place an ADU near your ~~house~~ <sup>home</sup> so that as the end draws near ~~for your loved one~~ <sup>your loved one</sup> they will be able to have their family nearby, still have some sense of self and dignity. Trust me the 200 extra square feet will almost ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> as valuable as gold. I wish I could convince you that 1000 ~~more~~ <sup>my family in our comm-</sup> square feet would be better but instead I plead for all families that you change the square footage limit from 1000 to 1200 square feet. I hope I have illustrated the huge difference ~~it~~ <sup>and</sup> can make ~~and one that~~ <sup>need for more room and the extra space</sup> you just might need someday in your future.

*This might be something*

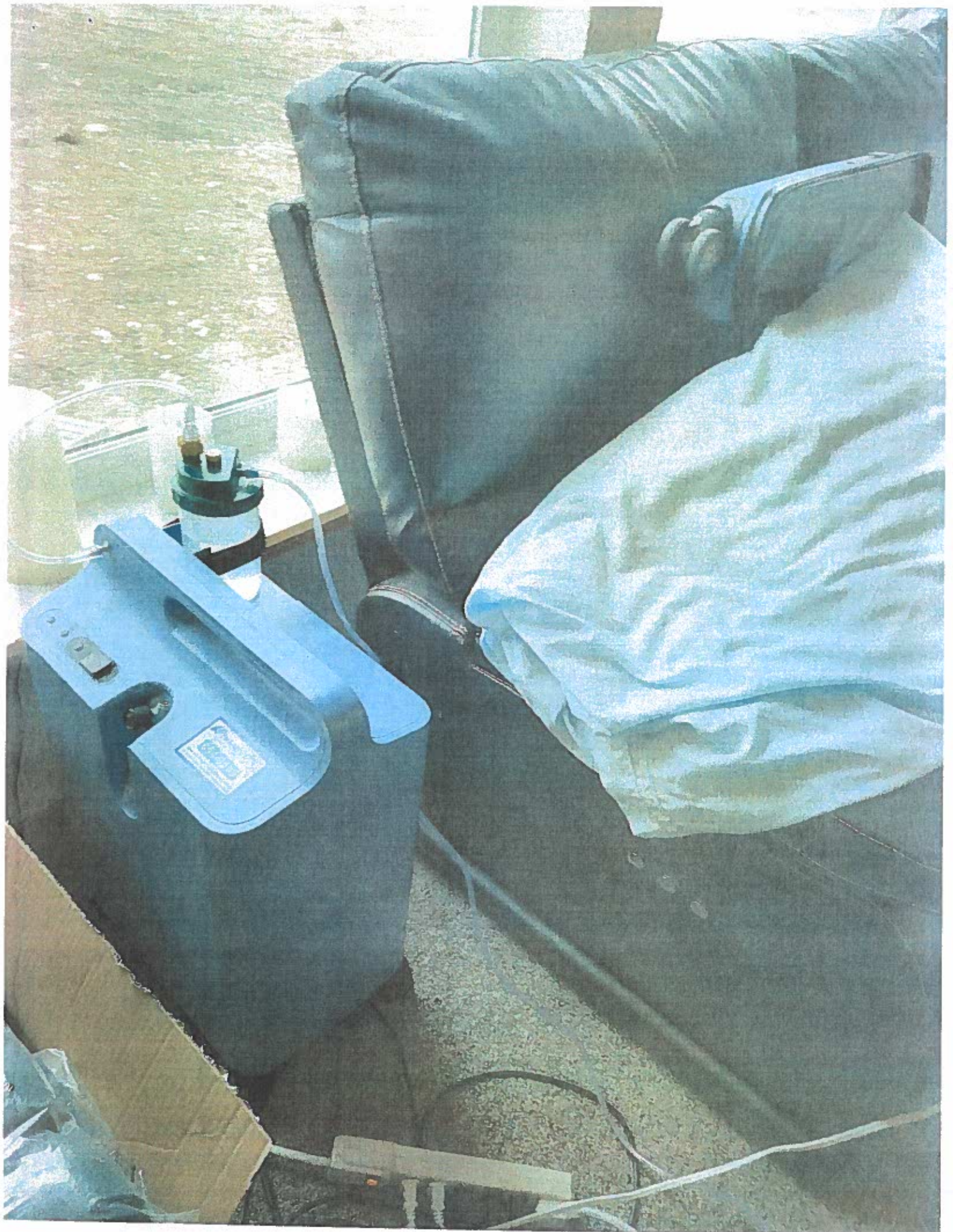
Thank you



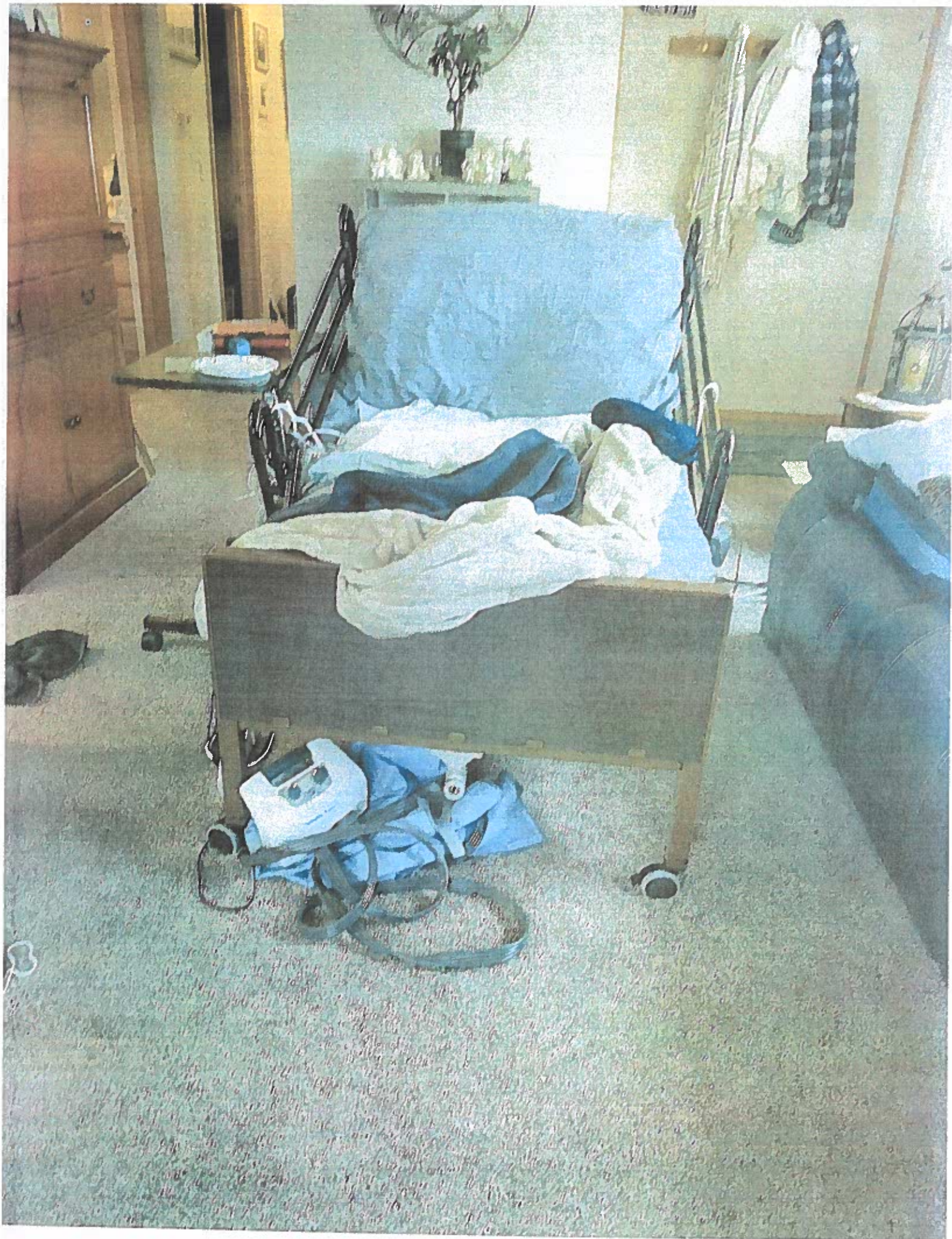
EXHIBIT NO. 2  
DATE: 4/12/23  
FILE NO. LFN2020-00009  
SEP2022-00037























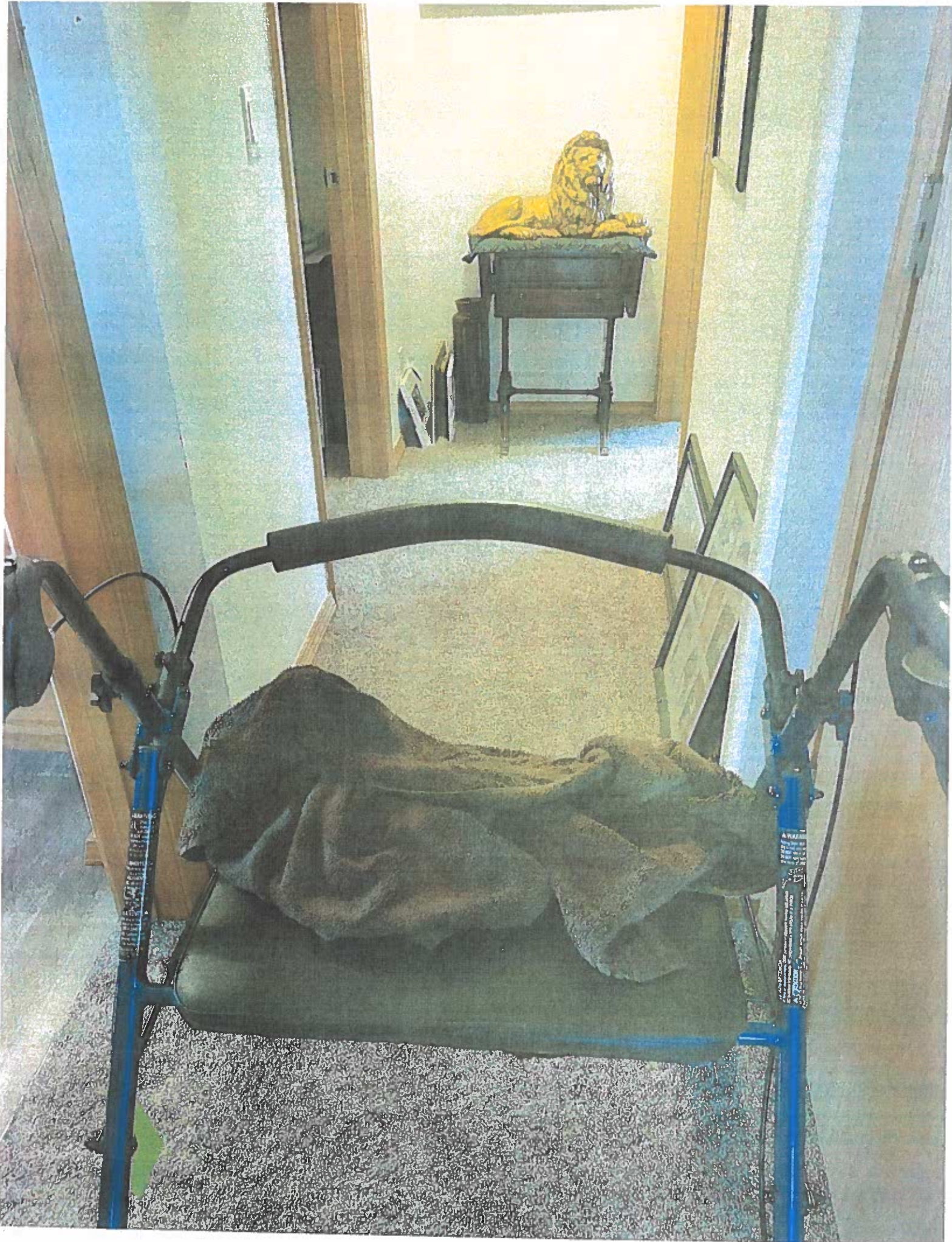














My name is Michelle Bennett  
I have cared for someone in my  
home for 6 yrs. It takes an amazing  
amount of time and coordination. When  
speaking about the space that is needed  
for a disabled or elderly person first you  
need to know what devices will be used. We  
had added over time a hospital bed with trapeze  
bar, a Hoyer lift, a commode, a walker, & a wheelchair.  
This was all done with love as it was my  
mother-in-law and I still miss her so much  
after 12 yrs. I guess what I would like to  
say is that if a little more space could  
give someone the ability to spend a little  
time with their father, mother, husband  
or wife. Please say yes to this request.

Michelle Bennett



EXHIBIT NO. 4DATE: 4/12/23FILE NO. LRN 2020-00009  
SEP 2022-00037

Good evening everyone, thank-you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be here. My name is Debbie Jett & I am here to <sup>talk about the obstacles</sup> ~~an ADH~~ under the current square footage allowance and I am very concerned about that, & my home is less than 1 year.

Equipment for the elderly &/or disabled ~~are~~ <sup>is</sup> very bulky, I ~~have~~ had a wheel chair in my house recently & going down the hall was very cumbersome & corners were very difficult to maneuver. If I were to put a hospital bed in my front room, there would be very limited space for family or loved ones to sit & visit comfortably. My bath room is of very good size but to maneuver a body around a bulky piece of equipment is not an easy task, good luck w/that.

As a senior citizen, I do not want to be displaced or placed in a facility because of lack of square footage, an extra 200 square feet would make a difference of maneuverability in a home & the ability to stay in a home environment.



Please consider the sr. citizens & disabled  
in <sup>our</sup> ~~your~~ community as you vote on this  
proposal.