

32 Ottawa Road
Arlington, MA 02476

March 11, 2021

Arlington Redevelopment Board
730 Mass Ave Annex
Arlington, MA 02476

Re: Warrant Article 43 ADOPTION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Dear Arlington Redevelopment Board,

I am writing to express my support for Warrant Article 43 which would adopt Accessory Dwelling Units into the Zoning Bylaws. I am sure you will receive many comments related to the details of this Warrant Article, but I wanted to step back a bit and share a personal story about how an ADU was important to my own family.

When my grandparents got married and began their family, there was no money for them to buy a home. So my grandfather and his parents split their single family house into what we would now call a main unit and an ADU. Over the years this ADU allowed both parts of the family to provide support to the other while retaining their privacy and independence. If they had not been able to split their house, the lack of privacy would have made the arrangement untenable. Luckily it was possible in that time and place and so my mother still recounts fond childhood memories of running “next-door” to visit her grandparents. She also recalls going over to check on them as their health declined. Thanks to the nearby family support they were able to live in their house with dignity until their deaths. This kind of multigenerational support, first for a young family, and then later for aging parents, would not have been possible without an ADU. **I know from family experience that ADUs can allow people to make best use of their home as their needs change over time.**

I hope that you will support Article 43 and allow by-right ADUs so that Arlington families will have the opportunity to use their homes in the ways that best serve them!

Sincerely,

Sanjay Newton
Town Meeting Member - Precinct 10