

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 787.

My name is Julie Hartzler, I have a 12-year-old daughter that uses a wheelchair. We are grateful for handicap parking, when it is available. The additional space between vehicles makes it possible for her to transfer in and out of the car to and from her wheelchair. There have been countless instances where we have had a difficult time finding handicap parking due to individuals incorrectly parking in handicap spots. Often times, there will be motorcycles that will park in the blue lines of the handicap parking spots. We have had oversized vehicles, that do not have handicap tags or license plates, park across several handicap spaces. There have been food trucks park their vehicles in handicap spaces at local grocery stores, taking up several handicap spots for the entire day. We have had to deal with cars parking in handicap spots that do not have handicap tags or license plates. One day at a grocery store we parked in a handicap space, went into the store, came out to a small car tightly parked in the blue lines right next to our car making it impossible for my daughter to get in the car. I had to carry her from behind the car, around to her door, and squeeze in through the side door. We have even been to local facilities that had their dumpsters placed in the handicap parking spaces. It is a sad reality that we have to deal with on a regular basis. There is a lack of accountability to those who have complete disregard for handicap parking spaces, and because of this we continue to face these same struggles every day.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have.