

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 31.

Specifically, I am a proponent to the illegal parking in the access aisles regardless of valid plates or placard, the revision of fines, ability for Ohio DMV to track the violations, and ability to have a citation with an unoccupied vehicle. My difficulty as a person with a physical mobility disability that requires the access lines to exit my accessible vehicle is frequent and without can cause immediate danger to my physical body and/or personal entity including my medically necessary complex rehab technology. On a conservative estimate, parking on the lines occurs at least once a month. Often illegal access aisle parking is seen as a burden, but for some users such as myself, it can and does cause harm to my medical well being and damage to my physical mobility devices. Just recently on December 1 approximately at 6:30 pm, I had to go to the grocery store to get essential items. I was in the store for 1.5 hours and when I came back a large SUV was parked next to me in the access aisle (pictures listed below). The SUV was only a couple inches on the lines, however, those couple of inches meant I had to make a decision that ultimately caused immense immediate consequences. In order for me to get into my van, I had to make a tight turn and go over the side of my ramp with my chair to get into the van. I made it into the van, however, when going over the side of my ramp, the bottom of my chair was scraped and the front cover that protects the seating electronics was broke in almost half and dragging on the floor. Once I arrived safely in my home, I had to request a wheelchair repair appointment and obtain a new cover for the chair. I hope my personal story demonstrates the unknown, but high risk that can come from individuals parking in the access aisles. I know that the changes in the bill may not eliminate individual's parking in the aisle, but it could easily lower it occurring due to the added consequences of a ticket and fine the individual could possible receive.

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