

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.

The Accessible Parking abuse throughout the state of Ohio and the country is rampant. Changes to the existing Law are long overdue. The changes outlined in H.B. 787 would be monumental in the effort to curb this abuse. I have been a disabled driver for 33+ years and have experienced numerous situations where I have been unable to obtain an Accessible Parking space only to see someone return to their vehicle who appears to have no need for the space that they were occupying. I have experienced people parking in the access aisle which prevents me from getting back into my vehicle and have had to wait for them to return and move their vehicle or enlist a good Samaritan to move my vehicle so I could get into it. I have even seen a Police Cruiser park in an Accessible space. When I confronted the officer he stated he parked there because he was responding to a call. However, there were plenty of non-accessible places to park at the shopping mall. When snow removal is required, many times the accessible spaces and access aisles are used as depositories by the snow removal entities or those spaces are not cleared at all because the sign post impedes the way of the equipment. Many times the pathway from the accessible spaces to the place of business is uncleared or the snow plow has deposited snow into the curb ramp and it remains uncleared and impassable. The proposed legislation is a great step in the right direction to help end the abuse of these much needed spaces.

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. Respectfully,

Douglas Beckley

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