

55TH HOUSE DISTRICT
WARREN COUNTY (PART)

COLUMBUS OFFICE

VERN RIFFE CENTER
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET
13TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253
PHONE: (614) 644-6023
REP55@OHIOHOUSE.GOV



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State Representative P. Scott Lipps
Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, I'm grateful for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 391.

Ensuring the availability of accessible parking spaces is not just a matter of convenience, it is a critical piece of infrastructure that promotes equality, dignity, and inclusion for all citizens of Ohio. For individuals with a disability, the opportunity to participate fully in society requires access to essential services, employment, recreational activities, and social interactions. By increasing protections for accessible parking, we are upholding the principles of equality under the law and reaffirming our commitment to some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

Protecting accessible parking spaces is a matter of public safety. These spaces are designed to accommodate unique needs of individuals with disabilities, including those who require space for wheelchair ramps/lifts or other mobility aids. When these spaces are blocked, not only does it create an inconvenience for the afflicted individual but also poses significant safety risks that could lead to accidents or injuries.

This legislation is straightforward in its goal, enhance the Ohio laws regarding accessible parking to uphold the intent of the ADA so that Ohioans with a disability can easily access all amenities and services that are available without concerns that they will be restricted because of parking. I respectfully ask for your support of HB 391.

Thank you for your time. I can now answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Scott Lipps".