



April 16, 2024

RE: House Bill 195

Chairwoman Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of The Ohio Senate Transportation Committee:

The National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (“NMEDA”) is a North American non-profit association dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities to safely drive or be transported in adaptive mobility vehicles. This letter is submitted in support of H.B. 195 and on behalf of NMEDA’s four adaptive mobility dealers operating nine rooftops throughout the State of Ohio.

A growing segment of the U.S. population consists of people with disabilities and individuals seeking to maintain their transportation independence and quality of life through the use of adaptive mobility vehicles and/or adaptive mobility equipment. However, state motor vehicle licensing laws have generally failed to keep pace with the evolution and expansion of the adaptive driving industry, resulting in legal and regulatory gray areas for adaptive mobility dealers.

Over the past decade, dozens of states have taken action to correct this uncertainty by establishing new (or refining existing) dealer licensing laws to account for adaptive mobility dealers. The passage of H.B. 195 will signify the State of Ohio’s recognition that adaptive mobility vehicles are sold and titled in a unique manner, will update terminology to more suitably apply to the unique business activities of adaptive mobility dealers, and will eliminate the potential for adaptive mobility dealers to have their legitimate business activities unnecessarily challenged. Additionally, Ohioans seeking mobility vehicles and/or adaptive mobility equipment will benefit from the explicit designation of dealers that offer specialized adaptive mobility products and knowledge, warranty recognition, and facilities that meet or exceed the accessibility guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

NMEDA recognizes the Ohio legislature’s commitment to correcting the ambiguity of existing law and improving the purchasing experiences of consumers seeking adaptive mobility vehicles and/or adaptive mobility equipment. If additional information or commentary is desired, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Schoppman, CAE
NMEDA Director of Government Relations & Public Policy
Amy.Schoppman@nmeda.org

3327 W. Bearss Avenue • Tampa, FL 33618 • (813) 264-2697

www.nmeda.org