



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION

Senate Bill 2047, SD1 - Relating to Taxation

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 2047, SD1 Relating to Taxation, which provides for an income tax credit for individuals who make modifications to their home to increase accessibility for their clients.

This is one of several bills introduced at the Legislature that are intended to provide some economic relief to enable individuals to age-in-place in the community. On the Senate side this includes Senate Bill 3117, a similar bill proposed by the Administration, which was heard on February 2, 2008, but deferred. Since many of the provisions of Senate Bill 3117 were incorporated into Senate Bill 2047, SD1, we assume that this bill is the sole vehicle of choice for the Senate. We prefer the content of Senate Bill 3117.


With the aging of our population, it is important to allow individuals to remain in their homes with the help of caregivers to permit longer, healthy living in lieu of more expensive and scarce nursing home beds. Unfortunately, many homes are not equipped to provide the accessibility needed for a person's increased infirmities, particularly modifications to the entry and bathroom.

We defer to the Department of Taxation on the revenue less estimates for the bill. We also assume that rules will need to be promulgated by the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director