



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 10, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 1119 - Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board opposes Senate Bill 1119 Relating to Parking for Persons with Disabilities. This bill would allow qualified persons with disabilities who have a mobility impairment to receive a second removable windshield placard upon request and confirmation of disability status.

The 2010 Legislature enacted Act 141 limiting the number of removable windshield placards issued to qualified persons with disabilities to one placard and extending the validity date from four (4) years to six (6) years. The rationale was twofold: (1) a reduction of general funds (\$100,000) for the parking program in light of the current budgetary constraints; and (2) a reduction in the number of placards in the community to curb abuse by persons other than the designated permit holder.

A disabled persons license plate (DPLP) continues to be an option for qualified persons with disabilities who are the registered owner of their vehicle. The Legislature recognized that the primary reason to have a second placard is to augment travel off island. Parking a vehicle with a DPLP in an accessible parking space at the airport would then allow the placard to be taken with the permittee and used at his/her intended destination.

Consumers initially reacted negatively to the loss of convenience of no longer having a second placard. However, over time the acceptance of the new requirement has increased. We believe that the provisions of Act 141 needs to continue unamended in order to ensure a viable program.

We ask that this bill be held in Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2011
Time: 1:45 p.m.
Place: Conference room 016

Testifier: Eudice Schick, Chair Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs
"PABEA"

Bill: SB 1119
In Favor

I am Eudice Schick, current Chair of PABEA. The following testimony is being given by myself as an individual and in no way represents the views of the Executive Office on Aging.

Being disabled and having two placards makes me appreciate the intent of this Bill. Many households have more than one vehicle. Not having to be switching placards each time the disabled person rides in the second car is a tremendous convenience. What we need to be reminding people that have the privilege of holding 2 placards is that only one, at a time, can be used legally.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Eudice Schick