



LATE TESTIMONY

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senate Bill 2233, SD2 – Relating to Electronic Information

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) takes no position on this measure but wishes to provide comments.

DCAB provides technical assistance regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities to state and county programs and services per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The primary purpose of this bill is to allow government agencies to disseminate publications of notice electronically or in a daily or weekly publication of statewide circulation, as appropriate instead of requiring notices be published in the newspaper.

While we understand the increasing costs associated with publishing notices in the newspaper, the intent of publishing notices is to encourage the public to participate in government. Allowing state and county agencies to publish notices online instead of in the newspaper presumes everyone has access to a computer. In many instances, that is not the case, especially for individuals with disabilities and those who are elderly. If an individual with a disability or someone who is elderly does not have access to a computer, state and county governments are excluding this segment of the population from having access to information and a means to participate in government.

Amendments in Senate Draft 1 addressed our initial concern of having online information being in an accessible format to enable individuals with disabilities to have equal access to the information. Our other concern relates to individuals with disabilities who do not have computer access. We suggest an amendment to the bill be made to include a requirement to post notices on a public television network. Most individuals own a television, and doing this will make notices available on a commonly used medium to disseminate information to the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director