



January 21, 2025

Chairman Walsh

House Transportation

Subject: Testimony in Support of New Hampshire House Bill 259

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Support of HB 259. For the record, my name is Krysten Evans and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH. ABLE is a disability justice organization and we are a non partisan, non profit organization that fights for the civil and human rights of children and adults with disabilities.

I am here today to voice strong support for House Bill 259, which would allow individuals with walking disabilities to obtain special number plates for each motor vehicle they own. This bill is an important step toward ensuring equitable access to transportation and public spaces for people with disabilities, enabling greater independence and mobility in their daily lives.

Currently, New Hampshire law permits the issuance of walking disability plates and placards to qualified individuals, enabling them to park in designated accessible spaces and enjoy certain parking privileges. However, the law limits individuals to a single set of special number plates, regardless of the number of vehicles they own. This restriction poses significant challenges for those who rely on multiple vehicles for their daily activities, as they must transfer plates between vehicles or forgo accessible parking privileges when using an unregistered vehicle.

House Bill 259 seeks to amend RSA 261:88 by allowing the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue separate special number plates for each motor vehicle owned by a person with a walking disability. This change would align New Hampshire with practices in other states that recognize the diverse transportation needs of individuals with disabilities.

By passing HB 259, New Hampshire would enhance the independence and mobility of its residents with walking disabilities, ensuring they have equitable access to transportation and public spaces. This legislative change is a necessary step toward promoting inclusivity and upholding the rights of individuals with disabilities in our state.

We urge the committee to support House Bill 259 and recommend its passage.

Sincerely,



Krysten Evans

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Sources:

New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles. "Walking Disability Placards and Plates." NH Department of Safety, dmv.nh.gov. Accessed 20 Jan. 2025.

"New Hampshire House Bill 259 (2025)." LegiScan, legiscan.com. Accessed 20 Jan. 2025.