



February 4, 2025

Honorable Chairman Abbas  
NH Senate Transportation Committee  
Subject: Testimony in Opposition of SB 151

Thank you Chair and Members of the Transportation Committee,

For the record, my name is Krysten Evans, and I serve as the Director of Policy for ABLE NH, a disability justice nonprofit dedicated to protecting the civil and human rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in opposition to SB 151, which is relative to accessible parking permit verification and fraud prevention.

While I recognize and support the intent behind this bill to prevent fraudulent misuse of accessible parking placards, I strongly oppose the specific provisions that would require a photo or additional identifying information on disability placards. Such a requirement is not only an invasion of privacy, but it also creates unnecessary risks for individuals with disabilities.

People with disabilities should not have to compromise their personal privacy simply to access a parking space that allows them to participate in their communities safely. Requiring a photograph on a placard introduces serious security concerns, including the potential for targeted harassment and discrimination. Many individuals with disabilities already face stigma, and publicly displaying personal information only exacerbates these challenges.

Additionally, such a mandate disproportionately affects individuals with invisible disabilities, who may already experience unwarranted scrutiny when using accessible parking spaces. This bill would make it easier for people to police and confront individuals they assume do not look disabled enough to use a placard, reinforcing harmful biases and increasing confrontations that people with disabilities already endure.

That said, ABLE NH fully supports reasonable efforts to reduce fraud in accessible parking. We recognize that the abuse of disability placards undermines their intended purpose and creates barriers for those who genuinely need them. Instead of invasive identification requirements, we encourage the legislature to explore alternative enforcement mechanisms that deter fraud without infringing on personal privacy.

SB 151 takes a well-intended idea too far and would ultimately harm the very people it seeks to protect. Protecting access to accessible parking is essential, but we must do so in a way that respects the rights, privacy, and dignity of people with disabilities. I urge the committee to reject this bill as written and instead pursue more balanced solutions that prevent fraud without endangering or stigmatizing individuals with disabilities.

I would also like to say that if the amendment is adopted we would support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krysten Evans".

Krysten Evans

Krysten@ABLENH.org