

**From:** [Tim Cox](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** Reference bill 2178 – Attn: Chairman Walter Felag  
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Attn: Chairman Walter Felag

Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veteran's Affairs

Reference bill 2178

Greetings Chairman Walter Felag:

I had the opportunity to give testimony to you and the State Senate about Bill 2178 for the making of a license plate for the disabled. As I said that day I have been a wheelchair user for nearly 40 years and have lived and traveled around the U.S. as well as other countries during that time giving me a high level of expertise in the disabled community.

I am writing to support the bill but I would recommend a slight language change for it to be for anyone that has a permanent mobility disability may get the plate with medical approval. The disabled make up about 25% of the population and mobility disabilities of all kinds make up a large portion of that number. Wheelchair users, disabled caregivers, the elderly and other physical disabilities require accessible spaces for closeness to structures and more importantly safety for the disabled as they avoid busy parking lots and street parking. I have also had to show the tag while driving but is very difficult while I use my hand controls and hanging it from the mirror while driving obstructs my vision.

I also ask that the language be expanded as not everyone can afford to have their vehicles adapted. Brand new vehicles will offer to help with a monetary amount towards the adaptations but those amounts don't often cover the full amount. Insurance can sometimes help with a great deal of approvals but it is not guaranteed. Used vehicles are completely within the financial responsibilities of the person needing the disability adaptations.

Some disabled don't need adaptations to the vehicles as they can still use their legs but have permanent mobility impairments like the need for crutches, inconsistent wheelchair use due to sickness and stamina issues as well as other invisible disabilities that cause mobility impairments.

My experience of living in other states that had license plates and placards for the disabled made it much easier to be able to quickly get out of the car and not worry about finding and hanging the tag securely. Plates are less likely to get stolen, lost, broken, copied or even sold. I've had hangtags blown out of the car and had to chase it down. Overall they make life a tiny bit easier. It sounds like a small thing but would help those in need.

The disabled are a marginalized community with abled society often making decisions for the disabled without their input. Even when the disabled point out issues that could help them participate in society on a higher level, they are turned down. I would ask that you and the Senate listen to the life experience of someone that has been in this community here and other locations for quite a while. Please let me know if you would like to meet further to discuss the issues and/or accompany

me in entering and exiting my car so you may see the process.

Thank you for your time and I hope that I am able to celebrate the completion of this bill positively.

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