

Name: Zachary Gauthier

Bill Number: S-2178

Position: In Support

March 28, 2026

Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Attention: Chairman Walter S. Felag Jr.

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 2178 – Adaptive Vehicle License Plates

Dear Chairman Felag and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Zachary Gauthier, and I am a resident of Johnston, Rhode Island. I am writing to you today as an advocate to express my full and heartfelt support for Senate Bill 2178.

In my daily life and my work helping others, I see how accessibility is the key to freedom. For many of us, our vehicles are not just a way to get from point A to point B; they are our lifelines. An adaptive vehicle, modified with ramps, lifts, and specialized controls, is a massive investment in independence.

Currently, relying on a hanging placard is a constant source of stress. They are easily lost, frequently stolen, and often do not provide the clear identification needed when we are using extra space in a loading zone to deploy a ramp. A permanent Adaptive Vehicle License Plate, as proposed in S-2178, would change that. It stays with the vehicle that was built for us, providing a level of security and dignity that a piece of plastic on a mirror simply cannot.

I stand with Tina Guenette and the RAMP team in saying that this is a common-sense change that recognizes the unique needs of the disabled community. When I guide others through navigating public services, I tell them that their voice matters. Today, I am using mine to ask you to pass this bill and help make Rhode Island a leader in true mobility access.

I respectfully urge the committee to give S-2178 a favorable recommendation. Thank you for your time and for your dedication to all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Zachary Gauthier

Johnston, Rhode Island

Advocate