



State of Rhode Island
Office of Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Evan Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H 5883 – 2025

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I write to thank you for introducing, and to express my strong support for, House bill 5883. I see this bill as a critical step forward in ensuring accessibility, dignity, and inclusion for all Rhode Islanders. This bill represents a significant milestone in the ongoing fight for disability rights and accessible infrastructure, addressing two key issues that have long impacted our communities.

First, by phasing out the use of the term "handicap" on parking signage, this legislation promotes more respectful and inclusive language—an important step in recognizing the dignity of individuals with disabilities. Words matter, and updating outdated terminology is a necessary evolution toward a more equitable society.

Second, the bill encourages municipalities to utilize the Parking Mobility app, a modern and effective tool that helps identify parking violations, suggest new accessible parking locations, and address barriers that impede mobility. This is a smart, forward-thinking solution that empowers individuals and communities to actively improve accessibility in real time.

This legislation is particularly historic as it is the first bill born directly from the advocacy efforts of Real Access Motivates Progress (RAMP). I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to RAMP founder Tina Guenette, whose tireless work has made a lasting impact on accessibility and inclusion across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor
State of Rhode Island