

Testimony on House Bill 7050
Related to House State Government & Elections

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Chairman Shanley and members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

My name is Zachary Gauthier. I am a man living with cerebral palsy, and I rely on a wheelchair for my mobility and my independence every single day. I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 7050. I believe that the laws designed to protect our access must have the strength and the "teeth" to actually work in the real world.

House Bill 7050 is a common-sense solution to a problem that many of us face every single day. By updating signage and enabling the parking mobility app program, you are giving the community a way to help enforce the laws that keep our parking spaces clear. For someone in a wheelchair, a blocked disability parking spot isn't just an inconvenience; it is a wall that stops us from participating in our community. It is a direct blow to our dignity and our ability to live a self-determined life.

This bill allows for a modern, efficient way to report violations and ensures that our state is using the best tools available to support the disability community. It places accountability where it belongs and supports the mission of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities to ensure that compliance is a requirement, not a suggestion.

We do not need more excuses for why accessibility is ignored; we need to use the available technology at our fingertips to fix it. I urge you and this committee to support House Bill 7050.

Let's make sure that when a sign says a spot is for us, it actually stays available for us.

Thank you for your time.

Zachary Gauthier
1247 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
zag198705@gmail.com