

TESTIMONY ON SB 1218
An Act Concerning Various Changes to Title 12
Finance Committee Public Hearing
March 28, 2011

My name is John Coughlin, I live at 252 Breakers Ln, Stratford Ct 06615. I am supporting Sections (9 and 10) in hopes of alleviating the problems I have had over the past year with the Revenue Dept regarding the sales tax on the handicapped equipment portion of my handicapped van.

About a year ago I bought a van which I need to get around since I am totally disabled with multiple sclerosis. Without the van I would be confined to home a probably a burden to the state. The van is my lifeline. At the time after talking with different dealers in the state I was of the understanding there was no sales tax on the handicapped equipment portion on these types of vans. I explained this to the DMV clerk, who said "Take it up with the Revenue Dept". I had supporting data, quotes etc showing they do not charge sales tax on the handicapped equipment portion of these vans. I had no choice but to pay if I wanted to be able to register and use my van. I appealed and have been in constant contact with the Revenue Dept who has been pleasant but undecided on the issue since they say the language and legislative intent are not clear in the existing law. They have passed it around and through their legal council and still have not made a decision. They said they would wait for a clearer indication of intent of the legislature in this regard.

So here I am about a year later still waiting and hoping for my refund on the handicapped equipment portion of my van...This bill would not help just me, but others who find themselves through no fault of their own, other than the luck of the draw disabled and needing any help they can get. The chases portion of the van is still taxed under this law. Only the handicapped equipment is exempt from sales tax. To the State the dollars generated from taxing handicapped equipment are few, but to those of us disabled any help is appreciated. I want to thank my Legislative Representative, Laura Hoydick and Legislative Aide Phyllis Brett for their help and understanding with regards to this matter.

Yours Truly,

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