

For the record:

**Appropriations Committee Testimony for 02/25/2011**

**HB-06380 DOT**

I write with dismay at Governor Malloy's proposal to eliminate the handicapped driver training program at the DMV.

Of all the places to cut funding this is, without doubt, one of most discriminatory areas it is possible to think of being a direct affront to the disabled population.

As a disabled driver, I can attest to the fact that the ability to drive enabled me to remain productively employed, prior to my retirement, and subsequently allowed me the ability to remain an active member of society rather than being condemned to a life bound to my house.

(For the record, reasoning that public transportation as a substitute is largely a fallacy.)

Working with groups advocating for the disabled, I strongly suggest that the Governor, Senators, Representatives and the Appropriations Committee spend an extended time simulating the disability experience (I would be happy to facilitate such) before enacting such an incredibly regressive cost cut. Totally short sighted and insensitive – in a word, asinine

... and I'm sure the citizens of Connecticut would not begrudge the roughly half a cent per capita – annually, that this program costs.

Budgets can be manipulated - permanent disability cannot.

Keith Mullinar  
860-297-1296