



Senate Bill 281

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

**An Act Requiring State Buildings to Comply
with the Americans with Disabilities Act by 2018**

**Aging Committee
March 6, 2012**

The Department of Administrative Services ("DAS") and the Department of Construction Services ("DCS") offer the following joint testimony in connection with **Senate Bill 281, An Act Requiring State Buildings to Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by 2018**.

DAS and DCS appreciate and share the Committee's interest in ensuring that state facilities comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). The ADA, the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for individuals with disabilities, continues to play an essential role in creating a society that recognizes and values the contributions of all people. DAS and DCS share the Governor's commitment to remove barriers and enable individuals with disabilities to participate fully in public life.

However, we respectfully submit that this proposed legislation is redundant, in that Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 USC 12101, itself explicitly governs the State's obligations under the ADA. Additional State action is not required to implement it.

Moreover, to the extent there is any question regarding the authority of Congress to impose these obligations on the State, Connecticut General State § 46a-77(c) already explicitly provides:

Each state agency shall comply in all of its services, programs and activities with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12101) to the same extent that it provides rights and protections for persons with physical or mental disabilities beyond those provided for by the laws of this state.

In light of these existing legal obligations, Connecticut is fully committed to achieving its goals.

Thank you for your consideration of DAS' and DCS' views regarding this bill. We would be happy to meet with the Committee at any time to discuss it further.