



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles
Commissioner Melody A. Currey
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 20, 2013***

Proposed H.B. 5123 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY PARKING PERMITS ALLOWING PREGNANT WOMEN TO PARK IN SPACES DESIGNATED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Good morning Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and other members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on proposed H.B. 5123, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY PARKING PERMITS ALLOWING PREGNANT WOMEN TO PARK IN SPACES DESIGNATED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

This proposed legislation would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue temporary 90-day parking permits to pregnant women to allow them to park in parking spaces designated for people with disabilities or who are blind. While the Department can appreciate the goal of such a proposal, these parking spaces are authorized for use by those people who have a physical disability that limits their ability to walk. For pregnant women, however, that is not the case.

Also, as stated in related DMV testimony on another bill expanding the use of handicapped placards, the Department has spent a great deal of energy over the last several years to try to reduce abuse and fraud with handicapped parking placards. If such placards were expanded to be utilized by pregnant women, the potential for abuse increases and thereby ultimately harming the very population for whom these placards were originally intended.

Finally, the Department's resources would be strained due to an expected significant increase in handicapped placard applications should this proposal become law.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify on this proposed legislation.