



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR KEVIN D. WITKOS  
EIGHTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 3-400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE  
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR OUTREACH

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
E-MAIL: [Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.SenatorWitkos.com](http://www.SenatorWitkos.com)

### Transportation Committee Testimony in Support of SB 105 February XX, 2013

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. I want to thank you for raising **Senate Bill 105, An Act Concerning The Enforcement Of Parking Restrictions In Areas Reserved For Persons Who Are Blind Or Persons With Disabilities.**

I was contacted by a constituent who utilizes a handicap wheelchair van for transportation. On Election Day, my constituent went to vote and found a vehicle parked in the handicapped parking spot. There was no signage visible that the operator of the car had a valid permit to park in the spot. He called the police and watched as the operator came out of the polling station, spoke to the police officer and got into his car and left.

My constituent has complained numerous times to law enforcement about vehicles being parked in handicapped spots or blocking full access for handicapped vehicles only to see time after time, no enforcement action taken.

As a former law enforcement officer with over 28 years of experience, I have heard every excuse in the book about why someone may be parked in a handicapped spot without a permit, including "I was only going to be five minutes," "My dog is in the car and I wanted to keep an eye on her while inside the store," and "I have a permit but left it at home."

Many times these discoveries are through routine patrol and not directed by a complaint. Usually a warning is sufficient to curb the desire to park illegally, especially during the holiday season or now snow-filled parking lots where the number of parking spaces is limited.

My proposal is simple. Eliminate the discretion to provide a verbal warning by law enforcement and instead copy the procedure used by law enforcement when someone passes by a stopped school bus with its flashers activated. The law mandates that the police officer either issue a written warning or a summons.

Now when a police officer sees a vehicle parked illegally in a handicapped spot, he or she will have access to a written record on whether or not the operator has been warned before and how many times. Sometimes, it takes a financial impact in order to get people to start paying attention to this important matter and respect those who truly require special parking privileges.

Very truly yours,  
State Senator Kevin Witkos