



Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut
CT Affiliate of the New England ADA Network
Devoted to ADA Compliance and Education since 1992

Testimony on RB 5541

AAC Incentives for Businesses that Exceed Accessibility Requirements Under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinavasan, and members of the Public Health Committee;

Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut, the officially designated State affiliate of the New England ADA Center, and the only organization dedicated to seeking voluntary compliance with the ADA through training, technical assistance, and information dissemination is pleased to provide input on RB 5541.

The Committee's bill is to be lauded for attempting to address a serious issue in Connecticut - the lack of accessibility in so many of our Title III places of public accommodation. Certainly, funding is sometimes an issue even when there is a clear will to provide access to customers and patients with disabilities.

But so is the lack of information and technical assistance that enables business owners to understand what must be done, and how to do it. ADACC has been providing this information and technical assistance to businesses, non-profits, and municipalities and state agencies since 1992.

In our experience, without the technical assistance and information, attempts to provide access often fall short or cost way more than they should.

We believe a well designed pilot project such as the one being proposed by the Committee must include the provision of technical assistance and should be managed by an entity that understands ADA compliance standards, and is familiar with the tools that can ensure compliance in a correct and cost effective manner.

We also believe that eligibility for the pilot should not reward businesses or organizations that have not shown any interest in compliance or whom have been found in violation of the ADA. Nor should the pilot project award funds to large entities that have deep pockets. We must remember that the IRS allows both a tax deduction and a tax credit for removing barriers and providing access.

We do support your efforts with the bill and encourage you to incorporate our suggestions.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc A. Gallucci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Marc Anthony Gallucci, Esq.
Chairman