

Gaetano, Carolyn

From: Westcott, Beth <Beth.Westcott@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 6:06 PM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: get rid of handicapped csigns

Dear : Government, Administration and Elections Committee ;

I have been working in this field since I was in college . I am now 52 years old . I also worked in the public schools . I live in Simsbury CT and am active in my community . Over the years I have witnessed how individuals with developmental disabilities or physical disabilities have struggled with a sense of positive self esteem . We have come a long way but we need to keep the progress moving .

I work with so many individuals who are in their forties , fifties and older that were raised in a community that told them they were different .This causes internal conflict. A sign seen every day that reminds these individuals that they are different . A different "Attitude" helps in so many ways .

handicapped" should be replaced by "reserved" for parking signs because "handicapped" is offensive to many. It indicates helplessness and those with accessibility needs are anything but helpless.

Why wouldn't we do anything we can to help others feel better .

Beth Westcott

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