

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Chelsa Wagner

Date: January 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation Relating to Disability Placards and Increased Penalties

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation that would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modify the process by which individuals apply for and receive disability plates and placards in order to strengthen existing provisions and reduce fraud and abuse.

More specifically, my proposal would amend Section 1338 (Person with disability plate and placard) by redesigning the placards to display the individual's photograph and requiring individuals be re-certified every five years to ensure that they are still in need of a special plate or placard. In addition, this measure would increase the fines for violations such as parking in a marked space without a valid placard or parking in a space using a fraudulent placard from \$100 to \$250.

Individuals who park in these reserved spaces often prevent individuals with legitimate disabilities from using the spaces set aside for them. My legislation would significantly reduce this behavior by making it easier for law enforcement to crack down on those who fraudulently use these plates and placards. In addition, the higher fines translate to an increase in funds for both the Attendant Care Program and local police departments. While municipal police receive a much-needed boost in revenue, it also enables them to better enforce traffic laws like those governing placard abuse.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Johnathan Detrick in my office at JDetrick@pahouse.net.

Previous Co-Sponsors: WAGNER , BELFANTI , BRENNAN , CONKLIN , D. COSTA, DALEY , EVERETT , FLECK , FRANKEL , GERGELY , GIBBONS , GRUCELA , HARHAI , HENNESSEY , HESS , HORNAMAN , KULA , MAHONEY , McILVAINE SMITH , MILLARD , MILNE , MYERS , M. O'BRIEN , RAPP , SANTONI , SCAVELLO , SIPTROTH , K. SMITH , M. SMITH , SONNEY , STERN , SWANGER , VULAKOVICH , WHITE and YOUNGBLOOD