

# PARKING COMMITTEE 06/22/26

## LIST OF BOARD PACKET DOCUMENTS

1. Parking Committee Agenda for 06/22/26.
2. Parking Unit report (death retrieval process, survey of parking permittees, attendance at a meeting of the United Spinal Association's Working Group on Accessible Parking.
3. Article in USA Today – “Disabled parking is for disabled people, not pregnant ones.”
4. State of Connecticut Proclamation “Accessible Parking Awareness Day.”
5. Email from United Spinal Association – “Two weeks until ROCH 2026!”



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Disability and Communication Access Board  
Standing Committee on Parking  
June 22, 2026  
1:00 p.m.

The public is welcome to participate as follows:

### **Physical Meeting Location**

Kamamalu Building  
1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **Participate Virtually via Zoom**

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84232497383> and enter Meeting ID: 842 3249 7383

### **To join by phone**

Dial 1 669 444 9171 and enter Meeting ID: 842 3249 7383

One tap mobile: +13462487799,, 84232497383# US

### **HOW TO TESTIFY:**

**Written testimony** – There is no deadline for submission of testimony, however, to ensure the public as well as Committee members are able to review testimony prior to the meeting, we request written testimony be submitted no later than 9:00 a.m. one business day prior to the scheduled meeting date and time.

- **To Submit by Email:** Email the Standing Committee on Parking at [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov). Please include TESTIMONY in the subject line.

- **To Submit by U.S. Postal Mail or Hand-Delivery:**

Attention: Standing Committee on Parking – Testimony  
Disability and Communication Access Board  
1010 Richards Street, Room 118  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

- **To Submit via facsimile:** (808) 586-8129.

**Oral testimony** will be accepted via the remote testimony link or in-person at 1010 Richards Street, Room 111A and 111B, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813.

Testimony or comments presented by members of the public during the Committee meetings shall be limited to three minutes per agenda item. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a reasonable amount of additional time shall be afforded to persons with a communication disability to present testimony or comments, if needed. Any person who needs additional time to present testimony or comments is encouraged to contact the DCAB office in advance of the meeting. This rule shall be placed at the beginning of all Committee meeting agendas.

Members of the public may present comment or testimony during Committee meetings on each agenda item. Public comment or testimony, if any, shall be presented on each agenda item before the Committee deliberates on the item. After all public comment or testimony is presented, the Committee shall deliberate on the agenda item without further comment or testimony from the public unless further public comment or testimony is requested by the Committee.

**HOW TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION:**

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to disability, contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121 or [dcab@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:dcab@doh.hawaii.gov) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled.

Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.

**MEETING MATERIALS AND OTHER INFORMATION:**

The agenda and meeting materials for this meeting are available for inspection at DCAB's office located at 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and on DCAB's website at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/dcab-agendas-and-minutes/>.

If the remote connection (via Zoom) is lost, the meeting will be recessed for up to thirty (30) minutes to restore communication. If the connection is lost, we will attempt to restart the meeting again with the same link. If the Committee is unable to reconvene the meeting because neither audiovisual communication nor audio communication can be reestablished within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

If you have trouble entering the meeting, please contact Cindy Omura or Scott Castor at (808) 586-8121.

**AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

Review Remote Meeting Procedures

- This meeting is being recorded.
- A quorum of Committee members is required to be visible on screen.
- If quorum is not achieved at the beginning of the meeting, the meeting will be cancelled within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time and update any posted notices or calendar accordingly.

- If a Committee member leaves the meeting permanently at any time, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the meeting will adjourn at that time.
- If a Committee member leaves the meeting temporarily, the Committee member shall notify the Chairperson. If this results in a lack of quorum, the Chair shall call a recess. If the Committee member does not return within ten (10) minutes, the meeting will be adjourned.
- Raise hand to speak unless called upon.
- Identify yourself before speaking however public testifiers may use an alias to maintain anonymity.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2026.

V. Old Business

- A. Update on Death Records Crossmatch and Disability Parking Permit Retrieval - Number of letters mailed and return rates.
- B. Update - Survey of Disability Parking Permittees.
- C. [Act 54](#) – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to issue a disability travel placard to an applicant who has a valid removeable windshield placard and provides proof of travel.

Link to Act 54:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2026/bills/GM1154 .PDF>

- D. USA Today Article – [“Disabled Parking is for Disabled people, not Pregnant Ones.”](#)

Link to Article:

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/usa-today-us-edition/20260521/281621016982695>

VI. New Business

- A. Discussion by the United Spinal Association’s Accessible Parking Working Group
1. Authorization to sign certificate of disability.
  2. Efforts to combat fraud.
  3. 2026 Roll on Capitol Hill – United Spinal Association’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Signature Event Advocating for U.S. Wheelchair Users and the Larger Disability Community.

4. Lawsuit against State of Florida law authorizing pregnant people to park in accessible spaces.

B. Parking Permit Hang Tag Materials – Pros and Cons.

C. State of Connecticut's Proclamation - "Accessible Parking Awareness Day."

D. Public Service Announcement Accessible Parking Spaces on the Fourth of July weekend – Park with Aloha.

VII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for the Committee's agenda at the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

# PARKING UNIT REPORT

June 22, 2026

## Other Parking Activities from the Plan of Action

In the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

A crosscheck with Vital Record flagged 2,200 records. The database has been updated and letters prepared which will be sent out starting at the end of June. This is so the responses are recorded as part of fiscal year 2026-2027 statistics. DCAB will be able to compare the response rate after a six month crosscheck interval versus the usual 12 month interval.

The survey of permittees is ongoing. About 14.5 percent of permittees are responding, which projects out to just over 5,000 total responses. In comparison, the 2020 survey generated 2,600 responses.

Staff attended a zoom meeting of the United Spinal Association Working Group on Accessible Parking.

## USA TODAY US Edition

### Disabled parking is for disabled people, not pregnant ones

Linda Gitchell Opinion contributor

21 May 2026

I am a senior, bilateral below-the knee amputee from severe septic shock in December 2021.

I am glad to be alive.

When I go out, I wear prosthetic legs. I also require a walker and a wheelchair, which weighs more than 50 pounds. And I need my caregiver, who drives me places and assists me in transferring.

I have a valid Florida disabled parking permit. But in Florida, it is often difficult to find any of these parking spaces available on any given day or time.

It is a great day when I can park in the accessible spot, which is wide enough to accommodate my medical devices. These spaces also are next to curb ramps to provide access to sidewalks for those with wheelchairs or who are otherwise unable to step up onto the sidewalk.

The additional room required of these spaces also protects the safety of caregivers who may have to load and unload medical equipment.

We need more disability parking spaces – there are not enough to include all the Floridians with disabilities who need them.

#### **Florida lets pregnant people park in disabled spaces**

In July, a law was passed in Florida allowing anyone who is pregnant to get a one-year placard to park in spaces federally required to be provided to people with disabilities. This law was sponsored by Sarasota state Rep. Fiona McFarland, and it was a result of McFarland's desire to park closer to business entrances when she was pregnant on a hot Florida day.

While allowing a pregnant woman to park in disabled parking spaces might appear to be a nice gesture, it violates federal disability rights laws.

Indeed, McFarland herself has stated that pregnancy is not a disability.

To obtain disabled parking permits for a disability, certain medical criteria must be met. Yet to obtain a pregnancy placard, no mobility limitations are required – just verification of pregnancy.

The pregnancy placards are good for one year, whereas individuals who obtain temporary disabled parking placards based on documented mobility limitations can only keep their placards for six months at most. Some people who are pregnant have mobility disabilities that mean they qualify for protections and accommodations – such as a parking placard – under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

But this is not true for everyone who is pregnant; in fact, walking is good for most pregnancies as it improves circulation and provides other health benefits.

Thousands of pregnancy parking permits have been issued to date, and disabled people needing these spaces have begun to feel the effects.

### **Insufficient disabled parking spots put me in danger**

I personally have been affected by this new provision while trying to access basic health care.

The clinic I go to for my prosthetics has only one disabled parking space. When we arrived for a recent visit, this spot was taken by a pregnant woman going to the clinic using a pregnancy placard. With the disabled parking space taken, my caregiver had to get my walker and wheelchair out of the car and help me transfer into my wheelchair in the driving lane.

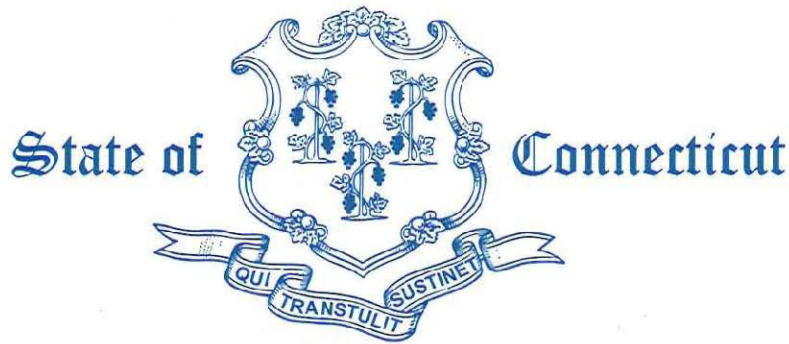
This is dangerous because either of us could be seriously injured by a distracted driver.

At a different medical complex I was visiting, there were two disabled parking spaces for all the medical offices in the complex, including an OB-GYN office. On my last visit, both spots were taken, and the red temporary placards were hanging off the mirror in both cars. Once again, we had to unload and load in the parking lane.

Activities of daily living already pose challenges for many people with disabilities – and finding a parking space shouldn't be one of those challenges. Without a sufficient number of disabled parking spaces, we can't get to jobs, schools, doctors' offices, parks and stores.

The pregnancy parking law should be repealed and lawmakers should start over on true parking reform.

Linda Gitchell is a retired family nurse practitioner and a guest columnist at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, where this column originally appeared.



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an  
**Official Statement**

*W*HEREAS, accessibility is a fundamental right that ensures every individual, regardless of ability, has equal opportunity to participate fully in community life; and

*W*HEREAS, creating an accessible and inclusive Connecticut means ensuring that all public spaces, including parking, sidewalks, crosswalks, public transportation, and more, are designed to accommodate people of all abilities; and

*W*HEREAS, barriers to accessibility can prevent individuals with disabilities, older adults, and others from fully engaging in work, education, healthcare, and recreational activities; and

*W*HEREAS, improving community accessibility benefits everyone by fostering a more inclusive, welcoming, and economically vibrant state for all residents and visitors; and

*W*HEREAS, the State of Connecticut is committed to promoting awareness, implementing solutions, and working in partnership with local governments, businesses, and community organizations to enhance accessibility in all aspects of daily life; and

*W*HEREAS, today, we gather to reflect on and remind ourselves of the ongoing work needed to build a more accessible Connecticut, and to encourage all residents to advocate for and support improvements that make our communities more inclusive; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the day of Monday, July 14, 2025, to be

# **ACCESSIBLE PARKING AWARENESS DAY**

in the State of Connecticut. I urge all residents, businesses, and community organizations to recognize this day, engage in discussions about accessibility, and take action to ensure that every person has full access to the places, services, and opportunities they need to thrive.



*Ned Lamont*

GOVERNOR

**Mick, Bryan K**

---

**From:** United Spinal Association  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2026 9:06 AM  
**To:** Mick, Bryan K  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Two Weeks Until ROCH 2026!

United Spinal Advocacy & Policy

[View this email in your browser](#)



---

## Roll on Capitol Hill 2026



We're gearing up for Roll on Capitol Hill 2026! Our signature event will bring together over 160 advocates from across the country for nearly 200 Congressional meetings to discuss key policy

priorities.

Because all meetings will be held virtually, you can participate from wherever you are. Our team will coordinate and schedule the meetings, making it easy for you to join and make your voice heard.

**Schedule:**

**June 23** – Education Session

**June 24** – Congressional Meetings

**June 25** – Debrief

**Key priorities include:**

- Defending Home and Community Based Services
- Coverage of Catheter & Ostomy Supplies
- Coverage of Carbon Fiber and Titanium Wheelchairs
- Ending Prior Authorization for Wheelchair Repairs

**We want you at the table.** Only registered advocates will be selected to participate, so please sign up if you would like the chance to attend. Join our growing network to help ensure the disability community is heard in every corner of the country.

[Become an Advocate](#)

This June, United Spinal Association's Roll on Capitol Hill goes virtual: engaging more than 140 advocates at a moment when the stakes couldn't be higher. Your donation makes that possible.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

## A Wheelchair User's 500-Mile Camino Journey



In the March 2026 [New Mobility](#) article, [Learning to Let Go on The Camino de Santiago](#), Sarah Smith chronicled her 2024 journey as a wheelchair user on Spain's famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail.

In 2022, United Spinal Outdoor Access Working Group member Kim Harrison completed the same 62-mile version of the Camino, dubbed the Accessible Camino. That initial experience helped Harrison quiet the doubt and gave her the "fever" to tackle the full 500-mile route in 2024. "It was a challenge I never thought I would be able to do knowing it was not accessible," she says.

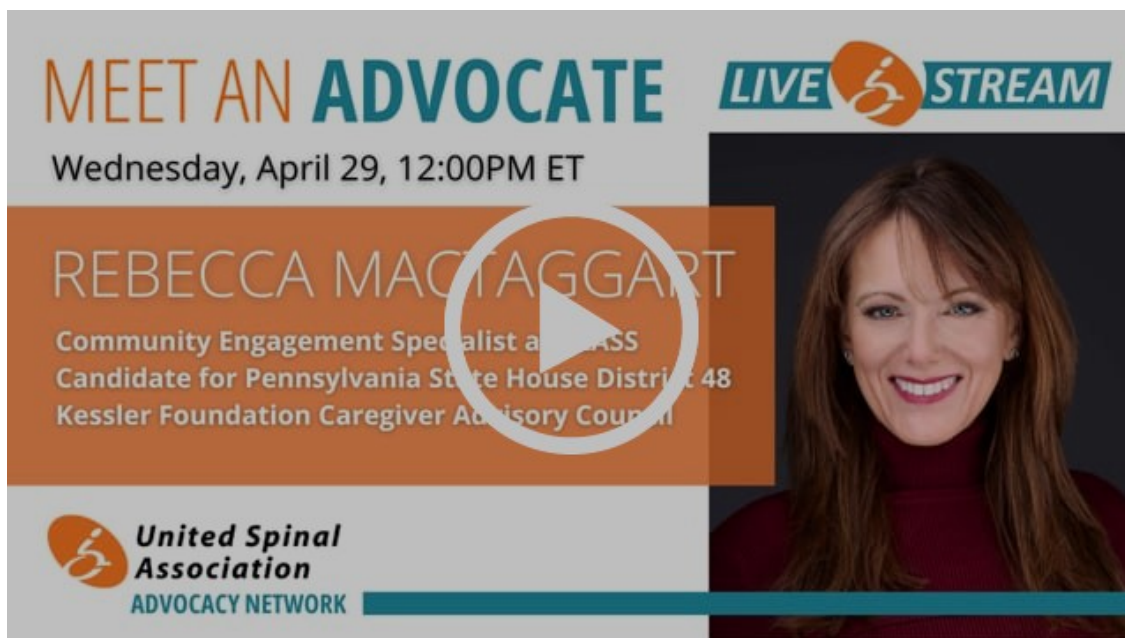
[Read about her journey](#)

---

## Meet an Advocate: Rebecca MacTaggart

United Spinal's Grassroots Advocacy Manager Annie Streit caught up with Rebecca MacTaggart in a recent Meet an Advocate livestream to discuss how her son's spinal cord injury led her to advocacy and her candidacy for Pennsylvania State House District 48.

Watch their full conversation.



The banner features the text "MEET AN ADVOCATE" in large blue and orange letters, followed by "LIVE STREAM" with a wheelchair icon. Below this, it says "Wednesday, April 29, 12:00PM ET". The name "REBECCA MACTAGGART" is prominently displayed in white on an orange background. Underneath her name, her roles are listed: "Community Engagement Specialist at MASS", "Candidate for Pennsylvania State House District 48", and "Kessler Foundation Caregiver Advisory Council". A large white play button icon is centered over the text. On the right side of the banner is a portrait of Rebecca MacTaggart, a woman with long brown hair wearing a maroon turtleneck. At the bottom left is the "United Spinal Association" logo and the text "ADVOCACY NETWORK".

---

## Defending Accessible Parking

United Spinal Association joined a federal lawsuit challenging a new Florida law that allows anyone who is pregnant to use disability parking spaces. The complaint, filed in the Northern District of Florida, alleges that the state law violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by allowing thousands of individuals without mobility impairments to occupy spots reserved for those with permanent disabilities.

[Learn more](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

**Advocacy Live** is an opportunity to collaborate with advocates from across the United States on issues affecting the disability community. Join us on [June 16 at 1PM ET](#).

---

## Get Involved in Advocacy

Join our [Working Groups](#) to meet monthly about issues that matter to you, including:

- Health Access
- Accessible Parking
- Outdoor Access
- Emergency Preparedness
- Care Support
- Accessible Transportation

**Is your organization looking for a speaker versed in disability advocacy?** Our knowledgeable team can develop a presentation that fits your needs. Contact Annie at [astreit@unitedspinal.org](mailto:astreit@unitedspinal.org) for more info.

The United Spinal Association [Advocacy Hub Facebook Group](#) is the perfect place to talk all things advocacy. Join to chat about the projects you're working on or questions you may have.



Share



Tweet



Forward

**United Spinal Association**

102 Duane Road

Fort Totten, NY 11359

United States

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from all newsletters](#)