

Good afternoon, I'm Kenny Maestas – the legislative coordinator for the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition or (CCDC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on [HB21-1014 - Disability Symbol Identification Document](#)

We offer testimony and have notified sponsors of 3 amendments CCDC puts forth today.

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> – as a requirement for symbol usage, we want signed documentation of disability that impacts an individual's ability to 'effectively communicate with law enforcement.'
- 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> – we ask that a sunset clause is included, in addition to research determining the impact of this symbol (if any) before continuing its use.
- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> – and lastly; While we are still nervous about any kind of new identification symbol - that would separately ID members of our community from the rest of the population - we believe the use of the universally recognized disability/handicap symbol – the one currently used on government issued handicap parking placards - is by far the best choice.

There is another symbol for use currently in this legislation which we question for the following reasons.

When I previously mentioned the government issued handicap parking placard symbol - Everyone here immediately thought of the no parking sign right. Blue sign with the white handicap person seated in a wheelchair. This is because this sign - if not universally – is at least recognizable and immediately identifiable by every police officer in the United States.

Now then, if I asked the committee without looking; How many of you can describe this other symbol offered in HB21-1014; would you all be able to immediately raise your hand with confidence and give me a description? Did that 'no parking' sign representation we already have established in memory immediately pop into your mind for this currently unknown symbol?

No? It didn't for me either. That's because no one knows what that symbol means. So, instead of using an already known symbol, there would need to be a ton of new education about it, in addition to trainings. A quick memo is not going to be enough to make a police officer or other first responder remember on the spot.

Every police officer or 1<sup>st</sup> responder already knows the international disability symbol and that it means disability. This information is imprinted in their minds already. Trainings complete!

CCDC does not believe this Identification legislation would succeed without the use of the already established handicap symbol. There was an argument that the universal handicap symbol would make it known immediately that this person has a disability.

We find this ironic. If someone does not want the police or 1<sup>st</sup> responders to know they have a disability they should probably not put any type of symbol on their license whatsoever!

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have?