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Senate Bill 284

To: Senate Education Committee

Senate Education Committee Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the hearing on SB284.

This is a simple issue in my opinion. Unified School Districts (USDs) and Inter-locals frequently transport students with a legitimate disability. USDs and Inter-locals can apply for a disability “sticker” and register the vehicle with the Department of Revenue. This is fine until the USD or Inter-local needs to use a different vehicle for this usually short-term transportation need.

We have opportunities to transport students to job sites, educational settings outside of the school building and general errands. Students with disabilities come in all sizes and needs. Visually impaired and physically impaired students are transported to places off the school campus. Having vehicles with parking privileges assist staff in getting the student to the assignment and an opportunity for real live “teaching moments.”

USDs and Interlocals will not abuse this option of using a disability placard on a school vehicle. If an employee uses the placard inappropriately or against the statute, schools would expect consequences like anyone else.

Thank you for opportunity to share this issue with the Senate Education Committee.

Sincerely,

Bruce Givens
Assistant Director of Special Education