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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:27 AM

**To:** Betty Boaz <Betty.Boaz@house.ks.gov>; Brian Bergkamp <Brian.Bergkamp@house.ks.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Transportation proponent testimony HB\_2504 Feb 9th

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My name is Mark Stever and I work at the VA for the Paralyzed Veterans of America. I have also been a paraplegic for the last 20+ years. I have taken special interest in this bill because I have watched the liberation of granting handicap placards to veterans who have a 50% disability regardless of whether or not the disability produces limited mobility. The liberation of this requirement has defeated the purpose of handicap parking and should not be a tool used in effort to be "pro-veteran" and to win votes during a voting year. Let me explain what has happened with the liberation - I have watched many veterans come to the VA who have limited mobility and cannot find a parking spot because they are competing with veterans who have PTSD and are able to take a handicap parking spot. Yes that is a horrible disability but it does not produce limited mobility. I can also personally testify that almost all the handicap parking spots are taken by VA employees who are veterans. None of them have limited mobility. In fact I personally watched one physically run to his truck to get his cigarettes and run off campus to smoke.

I think it is very important to get as close to the original statues as possible to better serve our veterans (and civilians) who have limited mobility.

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