

Annette Alfonsi
841 Shakespeare Circle
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-764-5959

February 04, 2021

RE: SB 47: "An Act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities."

Dear Alaska Legislature,

Please hear and pass SB 47 and increase the number of fields that can legally write a disability parking placard to include physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech language pathologists.

It is already within the scope of practice of these fields to assess for issues that are listed on the disability parking placard application form. Allowing these licensed professionals to provide a necessary accommodation in the form of a disability parking placard at the time of an assessment will reduce costs and reinjury. Passage of this bill will increase physician appointment scheduling options, ability to quarantine safely, and the time and ability necessary for people with disabilities to focus on healing.

Currently, after an assessment with one of the above listed specialists in which a disability parking placard may be deemed necessary, people must make a separate appointment to see a physician or similar provider in order to obtain a parking placard - this includes short term temporary parking placards. In the time that it takes to make that appointment, many people experience slip and falls in the winter which lead to reinjury or exacerbating a current injury. The unnecessary delay in obtaining a parking placard also leads to mental health issues as folks see their healing trajectory negatively affected. Meanwhile, physician wait lists are getting longer.

Please pass this bill which will allow people to receive the accommodations necessary to remain independent, and cumulatively save money while not costing a cent.

Sincerely,

Annette Alfonsi

Alaska Partner, Unmasking Brain Injury



Alaska Occupational Therapy Association
3705 Arctic Blvd. PMB 1616
Anchorage, AK 99503
www.akota.org

February 4, 2021

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson:

On behalf of the Alaska Occupational Therapy Association's Executive Board I offer this official comment letter in support of Senate Bill 47.

The proposed addition of an Occupational Therapist to the list of clinicians eligible to complete a disabled parking permit is in the best interest of the Alaskan community. It is within the scope of practice for a licensed Occupational Therapist to attest to the established criteria on the Special Application for Disability Parking Permit, specifically items 1, 2, and 6. Many of the more rural Alaska communities have long wait lists and difficulty gaining access to a physician or other provider to fill out this form. By allowing other professionals to complete this document according to their areas of expertise it will streamline the application/renewal process for many Alaskans and allow greater access to their communities.

Please let us know if there are any follow-up questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim DeBord, MS, OTR/L
AKOTA President 2021-2022
president@akota.org

Scotty Orr, OTD, OTR/L
Legislative Chair
AKOTA President 2019-2020
scottorr.OT@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for physical therapists being one of the providers who can complete paperwork for an applicant/patient in need of a disability parking placard.

As a physical therapist I may spend multiple hours a week with a patient over the course of treatment. I see how they move, problem solve and progress over time. This offers me, and all physical therapists, a detailed opportunity to evaluate if someone is in need of a either a temporary or permanent disability parking placard.

From what I understand there are not enough providers that are able or willing to do this for patient and, if there is indeed a need for more providers, physical therapists would be a great fit to help out. Please know I am ready and willing to do my part as needed.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Corina Carlson

Corina Carlson, PT, DPT, PRC
Physical Therapist, Owner

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Letter of Support



February 2, 2021

RE: SB 47: "An Act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities."

Dear Alaska Legislators,

Maniilaq Association is writing the 32nd Alaska State Legislature today in support of SB 47: "An Act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities." Maniilaq Association is one of 12 Regional Native 501 (c) (3) Non-profit Corporations located within the State of Alaska, that serves twelve federally recognized Iñupiaq tribes in Northwest Alaska, that includes Kotzebue, which is the regions Hub and largest community. Maniilaq Association organization mission is: Savaqatigiiksugut (we are working together). Maniilaq provides comprehensive health care to all people in our service area, while promoting prevention, fitness, wellness, holistic strategies and incorporating local traditional core values and beliefs.

As the only provider of behavioral health issues, developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries, Maniilaq Association supports changes that would allow Speech Language Pathologists, Physical Therapists, and Occupational Therapists to provide proof of disability and complete the State of Alaska Application for Special Disability Parking Permit forms for their patients. These minor changes will expand access to Disability Parking Permits for qualified patients, and allow them to obtain the assistance they need with fewer cumbersome referrals.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Bree Swanson, Maniilaq Administrator for Social (bree.swanson@maniilaq.org) services for any additional clarification.

Thank you,

Tim Gilbert, President / CEO

MANIILAQ ASSOCIATION | P.O. BOX 256 | KOTZEBUE, AK 99752 | 1.800.478.3312

Kotzebue **Dikiqtagruk**, Ambler **Ivisaappaat**, Buckland **Nunatchiaq**, Deering **Ipnatchiaq**, Kiana **Katyaak**, Kivalina **Kivaliniq**, Kobuk **Laugviik**, Noatak **Nautaaq**, Noorvik **Nuurvik**, Point Hope **Tikigaaq**, Selawik **Akuligaaq**, Shungnak **Isinnaq**

Support for SB 47

To Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson and members of the committee:

As a citizen who has had surgeries on her knees, neck, foot, and hip, there have been many times that I have needed to use parking spaces that were closer to businesses. I had a placard for special parking once, for five years, and did not renew it after I recovered enough to walk longer distances. It was my physical therapist, whom I saw on a regular basis, that worked with me before and after each of these surgeries.

The physical therapists, occupational therapists, and other therapists, are the first professionals that will know when a patient is ready to drive again. There is no reason that a patient should have to make a special visit to another medical professional to get a signature on the paperwork for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

I offer my full support for SB 47.

Yours truly,

Carolyn "Care" Clift

Former Teacher, Anchorage School District, currently retired

Water Fitness Instructor, part-time

Former candidate for State office: 2014, 2018, 2020

Changes proposed by SB47:

"For purposes of this subsection, proof of disability may be

provided by a person licensed **as a speech-language pathologist under AS 08.11**, as

a chiropractor under AS 08.20, as a physician or physician assistant under AS 08.64,

[OR] as an advanced practice registered nurse under AS 08.68, **or as a physical**

therapist or occupational therapist under AS 08.84."

Janalee L. Gage
2512 Third Avenue, Ketchikan AK 99901
907-204-0635
janaleeg66@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in full support of SB 47 "An Act relating to special registration plates for vehicles owned by persons with disabilities."

It can be very frustrating and for some expensive to pay another \$250.00 just to get weight, temp, blood pressure and a 5- minute conversation with your doctor just to get him to sign off on the paperwork needed to get a placard for parking in the disability parking spaces. It is not only wasting the time of the doctor, who could be seeing someone who has been put on a wait list due to this appointment for a Disability Placard, but it takes away from a patient's time and money that could be put to better use in physical therapy, or other medical needs.

Thank you for the time and would appreciate your vote to approve this change to streamline the process to acquire a parking placard for the disabled.

Sincerely, and respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janalee Gage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Janalee Gage