

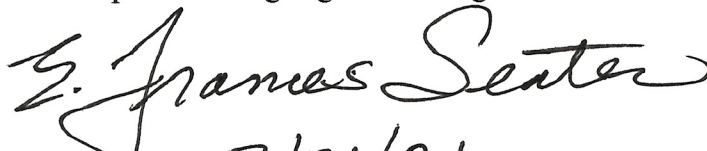
To Whom it May Concern:

RE: SB47

Greetings,

This letter is intended in support of SB47. Granting privilege to expanded fields in health services in the writing of disability placards, simply put... would reduce risk and improve safety in our community. As speech-language pathologists (typical title confusion aside), we are often on the very forefront of treating and evaluating persons with evolving neurological diseases/neurological accidents and cognitive impairments- seeing them as the initial provider... when complaints are burgeoning. Lag time, in an overwhelmed healthcare system, realistically often occurs with further referrals to additional providers. Unfortunately, again, from preliminary complaints of speech, language, cognition and swallowing changes, in some patients, risks can increase with driving quickly. Our bailiwick of cognition and language deficits obviously plays a vital role in driving safety. Further, the concomitant neuro-cognitive and physical fatigue impacts performance. Disability parking helps to reduce this fatigue due to proximity. There is nothing new in understanding adverse health conditions can lead to increased risks of accidents and injury with falls and parking. Efficiency is the question. By expanding the privilege of disability placard writing, we have the potential of accelerating the process of safer parking and thus reducing risks, not only for our patients, but for the community at large.

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