State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

June 25, 2012

TO THE HONORABLE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2012-S 3051, "An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Parking Facilities Privileges."

Under Section 31-28-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws, an individual may receive a permanent or temporary disability parking permit upon application and proof of disability to the Division of Motor Vehicles. This bill would allow an individual's medical provider to issue a preliminary, 21-day disability parking placard while the Division of Motor Vehicles considers the application.

The preliminary placard program would rely on nothing more than the medical opinion of each individual's physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or registered nurse. With no provision for any oversight, medical providers could exploit the program for the benefit of individuals without disabilities. As written, the bill does not provide the Division of Motor Vehicles with the authority to promulgate rules and regulations, investing all responsibility with the medical providers. Furthermore, the bill provides no mechanism to track these placards and to hold medical providers accountable for issuing them.

While I support enhanced access for the disabled, the preliminary disability placards are unnecessary as a bridge to the disability parking permits because the Division of Motor Vehicles has greatly reduced the application turnaround time for permits under existing law.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

Lincoln D. Chafee