



## PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: September 27, 2023  
RE: **Testimony on 2023 Senate Bill 53**  
TO: The Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government  
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

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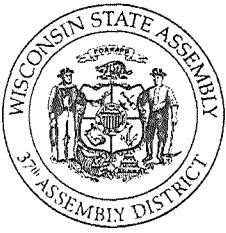
Thank you Chairman Tomczyk and members of the committee for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 53 (SB 53). This bill would include UW-System campuses among the entities required to recognize parking privileges for vehicles with disabled parking plates or special identification cards.

Currently, UW colleges and universities are not required to extend parking privileges to the disabled, and I have been made aware of circumstances where individuals with disabled plates were ticketed on UW campuses.

This bill was not drafted to cast our university system in a negative light. Indeed, many UW institutions, including the campus here in Madison, already adhere to the spirit of the law. However, this often requires the completion of duplicative paperwork, which I find to be an unnecessary barrier.

I believe this proposal is necessary because our statutes should reflect our values. The State of Wisconsin and its associated entities should make accommodations to meet the needs of those who are disabled. This legislation takes another step in that direction.

I appreciate the committee's consideration, and hope this bill earns your support.



# WILLIAM PENTERMAN

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**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government  
Testimony from Rep. William Penterman in favor of Senate Bill 53**

Chairman Tomczyk and members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 53, relating to disabled parking privileges on University of Wisconsin System campuses.

Current law allows individuals with a disability that impairs their ability to walk to obtain special license plates or an identification card from the DOT, entitling them to a legal exemption from meter payments and time limits on municipal parking spots that have at least a 30 minute time limit.

However, it has been brought to our attention that University of Wisconsin campuses are exempt from honoring the DOT-issued disability identifications for veterans and other disabled individuals under current law. Because of that, they are able to charge fines for parking in spots that are covered by these legal exemptions if they are located off-campus. These potential parking fines create confusion and unnecessary hurdles for disabled individuals, who must get duplicative permits from the campus or receive a ticket.

This bill expands current exemptions for people with disabled parking plates or special identification cards to include parking spots on University of Wisconsin System campuses. This bill is supported by the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Its Assembly companion bill, Assembly Bill 49, has already passed the floor of the State Assembly on a strong bi-partisan vote of 87 – 8.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of Senate Bill 53. I hope you will join Senator Testin and me in supporting this legislation.



Office of Government Relations

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DATE: September 27, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government

FROM: UW System Office of Government Relations

RE: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 53

Thank you, Chairman Tomczyk, and committee members, for providing the UW System (UWS) an opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 53 (SB 53).

Currently in Wisconsin, under §346.50, individuals with a disabled parking registration can exceed time limits in parking stalls that have a limit of 30 minutes or higher, and they can park for free at metered spaces of municipally owned or leased lots. The bill would extend these privileges to all the UW System campuses. Many of our campuses already comply with the spirit of the law and allow extended time limits and waive payment for vehicles displaying proper registration plates or identification cards. This bill would impact a limited amount of parking stalls across our campuses, and many of our branch campuses must already comply with the law if parking is owned/leased by the municipality instead of the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

