



January 30, 2018

Assembly Committee on Transportation
Representative Spiros, Chair
State Capitol, Room 15 North
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Spiros and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on AB 651. The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' (BPDD) analysis of this bill concludes it will improve accessibility and offer accommodations compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals with disabilities. BPDD supports this AB 651.

BPDD appreciates the Department of Transportation's work with the legislature to develop language that conforms with ADA accommodations requirements. The current rule prohibits standing in a human services vehicle by passengers and does not allow for exemptions under any circumstances. The proposed addition clarifies that individuals who have medical conditions that prevent them from sitting may be permitted to stand.

This small but important change ensures that people with disabilities can access and use human service vehicles, even if they must stand to ride.

As part of the legislature's ongoing review of administrative rules, we encourage state agencies and legislators to continue to assess whether rules meet ADA requirements and if not, are revised to ensure access and accommodation by people with disabilities.

BPDD is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities.

Our role is to seek continuous improvement across all systems—education, transportation, health care, employment, etc.—that touch the lives of people with disabilities. Our work requires us to have a long-term vision of public policy that not only sees current systems as they are, but how these systems could be made better for current and future generations of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Swedeen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Swedeen, Executive Director
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities