

16 March 2017

Re: SB 467

Dear Chairperson and Members

On Thursday 16 March 2017 I got out of my car at a 10-hour state parking meter at the underground parking facility with my YELLOW PARKING PLACARD in hand. Immediately a young man pulled into another meter in close proximity. He got out of his car with his YELLOW PARKING PLACARD in hand and realized he had not placed his car in state parking meter space. He responded with self-deprecating humor, "you need a PhD to figure out how to park around here." So sums up the tenor of my remarks below.

I have been visiting the State legislature for over 10-years as an advocate for the Washington County Department of Disability, Aging, and Veterans Services. I have been privileged to receive a parking pass, primarily in recognition that parking for seniors is problematic and a bit intimidating. However, two years ago, I parked at a non-state parking meter site at the underground facility, not thinking at all I was in violation. I dutifully placed my YELLOW PARKING PLACARD on my visor. On my return I was surprised to find a ticket from the City of Salem. It goes without saying I was incredulous, stunned, and clearly annoyed with myself.

After careful review of all of the rules and stipulations that I could glean from information on the YELLOW PARKING PLACARD and on the website, it was clear that I had violated the City of Salem parking code and I had erred. However, what bothered me was the difficulty I had in trying to understand the system and how I made my mistake. Despite several attempts, I was never able to discuss the rules with anyone on the phone.

I had always told my senior colleague advocates, "there are only two challenges when visiting the state legislature; finding the bathrooms at the Capitol and parking." How prophetic I was.

Receiving this ticket still annoys me and frankly I feel as if the City of Salem parking system took advantage of me. I am confident that legislators would expect that those visiting the legislature would be welcomed and that some flexibility would be shown towards visitors who have made a first time mistake in parking. Further, I would have appreciated receiving a warning about my parking violation, especially since I had a YELLOW PARKING PLACARD, instead of a ticket for a first-time violation. Of course, I am sensitive to those who are repeat offenders, taking advantage of the system, making it difficult for others to park.

I encourage the legislature to look upon this bill favorably.

Thank you for your consideration.

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