

Thursday May 20th, 2021

Re: SB 607

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Noble and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carina Perez Europa and I am writing to you today to request that you consider and support SB607 that would provide free parking to people who come to lobby and advocate their elected representatives before this legislative body.

I think that encouraging people to talk to their representatives and to passionately advocate for the legislature that affects their daily life is important, but it is equally important for us to remove barriers that may exist for people to do so. I know that parking doesn't sound like a big deal but when we have people who travel a long way away who have not only taken a day off work, spent money on gas, wear and tear on their vehicle and then have to find parking; paying up to \$1.50 per hour, the cost to engage definitely adds up. When taking into account that there are times that things inevitably happen and timelines change; either a committee hearing changes or a meeting with a legislative office runs long, people also run the risk of getting a ticket on top of all other expenses.

I personally have had this happen to me. I have had meetings that have been scheduled at a certain time and have had to be pushed just because of how busy it can get. That is understandable of course, but often that has resulted in me getting tickets. Those tickets which can range from \$25 to \$40 depending on where you parked can put a strain on a family's budget. I think that as we encourage people to engage with the legislative process we shouldn't let parking and the fear of people getting a ticket they might not financially be able to afford be the reason they give up their ability to testify, lobby their elected representatives or even decide to engage at all.

I think that this bill could help alleviate that and continue to encourage more people to become active participants in the process.

Thank you for your service in the legislature and for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

Carina Perez Europa
(503) 602-0936
cp58064@gmail.com