

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE SERVICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Public Comment

Hello,

My name is Zachary Lewis, I come before you with many different responsibilities and many titles; I am a person with a Disability, an Activist, an Advocate and an Executive Director (of Disabled In Action) in Pennsylvania. It's been almost 30 years since The Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 (ADA) has been passed and yet we people with disabilities are still getting the shaft. It was my understanding after this Bill was passed Access would be a Civil Right, well on paper yeah. With all of the titles and responsibilities I have, it is safe to assume that I have a very busy schedule from week to week. I am not able to get around where I need to go and still maintain my dignity. You would not believe that after I scheduled a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) ride, I've met up with former Ambulances as poor excuses for a (WAV) ride to pick me up. Where is the dignity, respect and equality in that? I am not scheduled to get a ride to the hospital why are they being used? If I'm out at a social event and I get dropped off in a (Ambulance WAV) what is the narrative when getting dropped off? I mean I don't want to have people looking at me and thinking "look at the poor guy in the ambulance, how nice he's able to come out side this late. I can go on and on. When it comes to equality, I implore you to also consider costs. There is a greater difference in costs when a (WAV) ride verses a non-(WAV) ride. People with Disabilities pay for the same service that other people pay for when using ride services, why is there a difference in cost? A lot of people in my community are on limited fixed incomes, yet we pay more for our rides. Where is the equality in that?