

Dale Crafts
LISBON FALLS
LD 1515

Testimony of Hon. Dale Crafts

IN SUPPORT of LD 1515

” An Act to Exempt Wheelchair Adapted Vehicles from the Sales and use tax

Senator Grohowski, Representative Cloutier, and honorable members of the joint standing committee on taxation

My name is Dale Crafts; it's an honor to be here before your committee. Thank you for serving the Maine people. It truly is a sacrifice to serve.

Back in May of 1983 I was traveling to work on my motorcycle when an elderly man turned in front of me, forcing me off the road. When I woke from the accident, I realized I couldn't move my body from the chest down. So, the journey began as a paraplegic. Next month will be 42 years in a chair. I would like to show you one example of how expensive medical equipment cost. This manual Wheelchair cost with the cushion is \$8200.

Now I will talk to you what it is like to purchase a wheelchair adaptable vehicle. 2018 I bought leftover 2017 GMC 4 door Siera truck and had it converted. The cost of the conversion in 2018 was \$30,000. That conversion today cost \$ 39.000. Not counting the cost of the truck. The cost of the same truck and conversion today would be over \$100,000.

The van I drive now is a Chrysler Pacifica converted by BraunAbility that I purchased from MobilityWorks in Gray Maine. I I'm the second owner of this van, the first owner bought new at cost of \$98,000. I purchased this same van as second owner April 19, 2023, for the amount of \$73,044. with monthly payment amount of \$1,134. for 60 months. I believe very few disable person could afford that high of a payment without help from family or other sources.

I would like to tell you how important it is to get your independence back by having the ability to get in a vehicle and drive off on your own. It's game changes psychologically and mentally. Over the year I had have several families ask me to please talk to a person that has become paralyzed to show them that life isn't over. One of the first thing I tell them, if possible, get yourself a handicap adapted transportation as soon as possible. Its life changing. I encourage list committee to pass LD1515 with a unanimous vote and pray that appropriation will fund it. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you for your time. Is there any questions?