Senate Bill 964: Authorizing physical therapists to make certifications
for acquiring disabled parking plates and cards
Testimony of State Senator Joan Ballweg
Senate Committee on Transportation and Local Government
February 6, 2024

Thank you, Chair Tomczyk, and members of the committee for holding this public hearing.

Senate Bill 964 is a straightforward bill that would authorize physical therapists to certify the necessary Department of Transportation information for a person to acquire a disabled parking plate or card.

The current list of providers authorized to do this include: licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, public health nurse, physician assistant, podiatrist, chiropractor, Christian Science practitioner, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to Mayo Clinic, physical therapists diagnose and treat patients who have medical problems or injuries that limit their abilities to move or function in their daily lives. Given the scope of their work, level of expertise and training, we believe physical therapists are more than capable and qualified to be added to the list of providers who can authorize disabled parking plates and cards for individuals. When someone is injured or disabled, whether permanently or temporarily, they will often work very closely with a physical therapist. This bill provides one more option for those needing disabled parking plates and cards to receive them from a provider-type that they are often already working closely with.

At least six other states allow physical therapists to issue such certifications, including neighboring states Michigan and Minnesota. This legislation is supported by the American Physical Therapy Association – Wisconsin.

This legislation includes an amendment we introduced at the request of the Department of Transportation to delay implementation by nine months. This would give the department time to make the necessary IT updates to accommodate the bill.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.