



# United Spinal Association

[www.unitedspinal.org](http://www.unitedspinal.org)

July 20, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue, 5th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Letter in Support of Amendment 2 to Bill 53-14, Release of Accessible PVLs

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to support Councilmember Riemer's amendment to Bill 53-14 which would lead to the release of 100 new wheelchair accessible vehicle PVLs, with preference given to a driver-owned fleet with a stated commitment to serving the disability community. Montgomery County's older adults, residents and visitors with disabilities will benefit from increased demand responsive service. Accessible taxis can provide needed transportation options to work, school, religious and social activities, and healthcare appointments. According to a recently released report from the National Council on Disability, transportation problems persist for people with disabilities, and the lack of wheelchair-accessible taxis (and we believe all for-hire vehicles) is one of the most important transportation issues for people with disabilities in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Founded in 1946 by paralyzed veterans, United Spinal Association is the largest disability-led nonprofit organization serving and representing the interests of more than a million Americans living with spinal cord injuries and disorders. United Spinal Association has dedicated its energy, and programs to improving the quality of life for these Americans of all ages and advancing their independence. United Spinal has a long history of advocating for equal access to transportation, including advocating for increased fleets of accessible taxis in New York City and the District of Columbia.

United Spinal appreciates your commitment to providing equal access to transportation to all. Our local members and members who visit the DMV for personal pleasure and business will benefit greatly. In addition, a vote in support of this Amendment would be a terrific way to celebrate and lift up the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities, signed into law July 26, 1990. Please do not hesitate to contact Carol Tyson at United Spinal's policy office with any questions at (202) 556-2076, ext 7104 or [ctyson@unitedspinal.org](mailto:ctyson@unitedspinal.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Weisman".

James Weisman  
CEO & President  
United Spinal Association

<sup>1</sup> National Council on Disability (2015, May 4). *Transportation Update: Where We've Gone and What We've Learned*. <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/05042015/>