

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
A.6215 (Barclay)

The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) is a statewide, not-for-profit membership association, created by and composed of Independent Living Centers across New York State. Independent Living Centers are unique disability-led, cross-disability, locally administered, not-for-profit organizations, providing advocacy and support to people with disabilities of all ages to live independently and fully integrated into their communities. NYAIL strongly supports A.6215 (Barclay), which would impose requirements based upon the 2015 International Building Code, as adopted by New York State; and replaces the term “handicapped” with “persons with disabilities” for vehicle and traffic purposes.

NYAIL strongly supports A.6215 (Barclay) as it will update accessible parking requirements to bring New York State law in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and International Building Code as adopted by New York State. A.6215 would amend state law to require accessible parking in any shopping center, not just those with five separate retail stores and at least twenty parking spaces, which has been the requirement under New York State law since 1981. It also clarifies that off-street parking is subject to these requirements. This will lessen the confusion caused by having different mandates at the state and federal level. Further, this provides greater clarity to law enforcement on their ability to ticket and or tow a vehicle that is illegally parked.

A.6215 would also clarify that parking in an access aisle is a violation for which people can and should be fined. When people illegally park in an accessible aisle, it can impede a disabled person’s ability to get in or out of their vehicle. Access aisles are important because they provide the necessary space to use lifts or ramps to get into or out of a vehicle.

Finally, A.6215 updates the language to refer to persons with disabilities instead of the outdated term handicapped. This, along with all of the other sections of the bill updates New York State law in positive ways for people with disabilities by using more accepted language and updating requirements so that existing laws can be properly enforced.

For all of the reasons above, NYAIL urges the prompt passage of A.6215.

For further information, please contact Meghan Parker, 518-465-4650, mparker@ilny.org.