



The Honorable David Ortiz  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax  
Rm. 307  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Ortiz:

On behalf of the 2.1 million Americans living with limb loss or limb difference and the additional 28 million Americans at risk of experiencing limb loss, the Amputee Coalition welcomes the opportunity to comment on *HB22-1253: Adaptive Equipment in Rental Motor Vehicles*. As the only national non-profit, patient-advocacy organization representing the limb loss and limb difference community, we work to ensure that no amputees feel alone through their journey. We also recognize that we are in a unique position to comment regarding this important legislation.

This legislation seeks to improve the level of support from rental car providers to the disability community seeking adaptive equipment. The current process of renting a vehicle for members within our community can be met with challenges. A review of multiple national rental car agencies' websites revealed that a customer could request features such as satellite radio, navigation systems, and child safety seats. However, there is zero opportunity for a customer to simply indicate that a requirement for adaptive equipment exists and for the customer to provide a request. Instead, this customer must endure a burdensome process to have the adaptive equipment available. This process often requires other time-consuming avenues to simply reserve a vehicle. *HB22-1253* addresses this shortcoming within the rental car industry, as this legislation will require rental car agencies to list available equipment and acknowledgement that the agency will provide the equipment on the rented vehicle.

With a limb loss and limb difference population expected to double by 2050, we recognize that limb loss is not uncommon and becoming less uncommon every day. Because of this fact, a growing market exists to provide the adaptive equipment to allow members within this community to rent vehicles that can be driven by the members of our community. In short, this legislation not only benefits Coloradans today, but it also supports a growing population that will benefit from the legislation in the future.

Enactment of this legislation will further prove that life can be lived well with limb loss. The simple truth is that automobiles are engrained in our society, and various forms of adaptive equipment has existed in vehicles since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through providing this consumer protection, members can enjoy a fuller life and reduce concerns that the necessary adaptive equipment is not available upon request or the frustrations that often occur through having a burdensome process to make the request.

Your continued support and dedication in serving as a champion for the disabled community is remarkable. Through your efforts, you are continually reducing barriers and improving outcomes for members within this community. **The Amputee Coalition proudly supports *HB22-1253: Adaptive Equipment in Rental Motor Vehicles*.**

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (717) 676-3179 or via email at [zhearn@amputee-coalition.org](mailto:zhearn@amputee-coalition.org).

Regards,

Zachary Hearn  
Director, Government Relations