

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GILA MARTOW REINTRODUCES TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY LEGISLATION

On October 25, 2018, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Gila Martow (MPP for Thornhill) announced the reintroduction of her Private Member's Bill 39, *Accessible Parking and Towing Industry Review Committee Act, 2018*. The Bill aims to assist motorists in their time of need by streamlining a patchwork of local regulations currently governing both the towing industry and the use of accessible parking permits throughout the Province.

The Bill calls for the creation of a taskforce of municipalities, non-profit and non-government agencies, health care organizations, and other partners to develop a streamlined, fair and innovative approach to existing regulations and modernize technology systems currently in use.

"Thousands of Ontarians struggle with mobility issues. They don't need the extra burden of complex accessible parking rules that vary between municipalities," said Martow. "Ontarians who require accessible parking shouldn't face the added trouble of having their spots taken up by users of fraudulent permits."

SCIO welcomed the news with CEO Dr. Stuart Howe commenting: "For people with disabilities, accessible parking spaces are an integral part of an independent lifestyle. SCIO welcomes Bill 39 because we know how vital it is to have a streamlined, consistent parking permit system across the province. We hope this Bill, if implemented, can mark the end of the inappropriate use of parking permits and ensure that permits are available only to those who need them. As a charity, SCIO is working toward our vision of a fully inclusive Ontario and this Bill would be an encouraging move in the right direction."

Martow added that improvements are needed to protect consumers.

"Many people don't know what their rights are if they find themselves needing a tow or roadside assistance. Bill 39 will strengthen protection for drivers across the Province by making sure they're treated fairly," said Martow.

"The Bill will help to design a single provincial framework that will assist small businesses in their operations, and protect consumers," said Teresa Di Felice, Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Relations at CAA South Central Ontario. "Bill 39 provides an opportunity to discuss

challenges that the towing industry faces in Ontario, from repetitive and redundant costs to inconsistencies between municipalities.”

“CAA SCO supports Bill 39, and encourages MPPs from every party at Queen’s Park to also support this legislation during second reading in the Legislature,” added Di Felice.

At SCIO, we’re extremely fortunate to have members of our community all across the Province who campaign for change.

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