

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

July 30, 2015 Woonsocket Public Library

CARMEN BOUCHER: Good afternoon, thank you for coming to this public forum, my name is Carmen Boucher, I work at the Rhode Island department of health.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

DORIAN HAVERS: Doesn't appear to be on.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Good afternoon, my name is Carmen Boucher, I work for the Rhode Island department of health, I want to welcome you here today and thank you for coming. The purpose of the public forum is to identify the concerns of people with disabilities and their families in order to assist the state develop programs to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. To ensure everyone who wants to speak gets a chance, please keep your comments short, and to the point. If you have critical problems that need to be addressed, the panel members will be available at the end of the hearing to direct you to the proper agency to help you. After each public forums are completed in early August, the sponsor agencies will review the testimonies and prepare recommendations which will also be posted on the web site by the end of November. Their recommendations and the transcript will be printed and sent to state agencies and congressional officials and to the members of the General Assembly. The recommendations will be used to develop policy, legislation, initiatives for the next year or until they are accomplished. The Rhode Island Disability Law Center panelist will be available to register anyone who is a citizen and is not currently registered to vote. He will do that at the end of the testimonies. I would like the panel to please state your name and address the agency you work for.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Can you pass the microphone around?

CARMEN BOUCHER:

MATTHEW BLAIR: My name is Matthew Blair and I'm an attorney at the Rhode Island Disability Law Center.

MARGARET KNOWLTON: ...head of school at Meeting Street, which is a nonprofit agency in Providence that works with children and young adults from six weeks to age 21 with and without disabilities.

MELISSA CHARPENTIER: Hi, I work for Sevin Hills Rhode Island. Sevin Hills is an organization that supports, from birth to the elderly, programs, people with intellectual disabilities.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Couldn't hear.

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

DORIAN HAVERS: Hi, I work for the office of rehabilitation services and our agency services individuals with a disability of all ages to help them find successful employment.

CARMEN BOUCHER: I want to remind everyone that we have two exits, well, three in this building, and two emergency exits one located next to me, the other one in the back and the other one on the side and there is also a lady's room and a gentleman's rest room just outside the door. I would like to remind everyone to please sign the sign-in sheet. If you are going to speak or just attending, that will be fine but it would be great to keep a record of the people that participated. We also have assisted listening devices available for anyone who needs them. The person in the back will help you with that. So we ask each speaker to identify themselves and spell out their names and just say the city and the town that they live in. So we are going to start by having Stella.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Stella Lacasse, SL) I only have questions, can I just ask my questions?

CHRISTINE: I think she needs to use the microphone.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Your handicapped parking, is there a time limit?

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: City hall has two hours.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Is there a time limit when you park, some people can stay there for days, and if you need somebody that needs that parking spot, they can't, you know, somebody is there. Is there a time limit? And who can you call? You know what I'm saying?

CARMEN BOUCHER: Yes, I comprehend what you're saying, what we're doing, we also have -- in writing, we may not have the answers to your questions, and I apologize for that. We will try to brain storm between the panelists by the end of the testimony to see if we have any answers for them but I don't know.

CHRISTINE: Is your question that people are leaving their cars there for an extended.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Sometimes. I live where there is only one of them and it's being abused and people that need it, they have no place to park.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Are they disabled themselves, the people that are -- are people driving the vehicle disabled.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) They come to visit, they can't find a parking spot, they'll park in a hand capped place and just leave, we don't know who it is.

CHRISTINE: Do they have a placard.

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Some of them don't.

CARMEN BOUCHER: That's different, I just want the microphone, if the person does not have a plaque in the car then definitely the police could be called.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Who do you call?

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: She said the police.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) The police? What if it's like a housing authority, you know...

MATTHEW BLAIR: manager of the housing complex.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) They don't do nothing, we call them they don't do a damn thing.

MATTHEW BLAIR: I'm not supposed to answer too many questions but I know each city has its own division that's in charge of parking for people with disabilities, so, first idea would be go to management because they are supposed to be in charge of it and if they're not doing anything you could go up to the city and try to get them to enforce it.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Go to the city?

MATTHEW BLAIR: I think so. But management first.

CHRISTINE: You can also file a complaint with the governor's Commission on Disabilities.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) I don't have any information on numbers or anything like that to call.

CHRISTINE: We can make that available to you.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Okay, I appreciate that. And is there a minimum, a handicapped -- that you need or.

CHRISTINE: There are guidelines for the number of hand capped spaces required depending on the total number of spaces in a given lot so there are guidelines available.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Okay. And how close to the building does a handicapped -- some of them are so far away, you have to walk a mile for crying out loud.

CHRISTINE: Well the spaces that should be the closest, as close as possible. But in some cases, because of perhaps a tree or whatever, it's not going to be as close as you might like. So it has to be looked at and checked out.

**2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families**

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) But it should be as close to the entrance.

CHRISTINE: Yes.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) But it isn't. So, you can't do nothing about it.

CHRISTINE: You should file a complaint and have it looked at, investigated.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Now would a handicapped placard if you're any place and they're all taken, can you park any place, even if there is a meter you have to feed, and not feed the meter.

CHRISTINE: In the state of Rhode Island you are not required to feed a meter if you have a handicapped placard that is hung.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) That is what?

CHRISTINE: That is hung up appropriately.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Okay, good, thank you.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: So you don't have -- she's got a handicapped plate and because of, we take her everywhere, so you're saying all the disability places are full, the parking -- like, you pay for.

CHRISTINE: The, it's a metered space and you have a placard, you don't need the meter.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Can you identify yourself, sir?

CHRISTINE: Your name?

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Arthur --

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) So there is no time limit to park in a handicapped place, you can park two or three days in a row, 3 days? That shouldn't be. Okay. Thank you.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Charles.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: If you want to read about it. Charles Lemoine (CL), I live at 174 St. -- Street. Charles Lemoine, 174 St. Barnaby (sounds like) street Woonsocket Rhode Island. I have a few things about, in Woonsocket we have an ADA but he thinks, he's not for us as much as he is for his personnel manager, he hires people in the city of Woonsocket. He thinks he's going to do that more than he's got to do ADA because he doesn't get a stipend for the ADA part of it. It's not my fault they gave him the job, so, I have to deal with him and a lot of times, I have a letter over here, I don't want to read it, but it says he has to answer me as the ADA person, saying, he's going out of his way to answer me. In which, I'm still waiting for the answer because on that letter it doesn't say what's going to happen.

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

The other thing is, when our parking, they don't have signs in the parking lots, and I brought it up to the city, it's like talking to me (sounds like), because what they do is they call the government on disability and do there, they say, well, we can't do anything because they're already in business so they already got a license. So, my question is, who do which go to before they get their license? They should be following the ADA laws because it's 25 years, a city of Woonsocket, I have been fighting them for three years to get things like this so I can hear the meetings, the city of Woonsocket goes in and out, this one doesn't, so I recently asked them for something like that and I don't know if they're going to give it to me on August 3rd, but if they don't I'm going to have to file something, I don't know, the government on disability, where I file (sounds like). And there is a place called, on South Main Street, well, their handicapped sign is in, the driveway is here, the ramp goes like this, for you to park, but the sign is here. And you can't, you know, it doesn't show any, you know, for us to park there. So, that's one thing, I brought that up. I brought up, over here, at the family dollar, if I want to bring her in there, I can't get her out on the sidewalk to go into the store because there is a lip on the thing, I tried to get them to fix it but there again, because they've been in business, they -- I guess go after the owner of the parking lot because two different people own the parking lot, I had found out. And they are just not doing anything, the city of Woonsocket says we can't do anything because they're already in business. My question, again, is, who do you go to before, who is responsible to make sure they have handicapped stuff for us people that are handicapped? I'm not only hard of hearing, I have back problems, I am disabled from the state of Massachusetts, it's more than just my hearing. So, and, I know, it says you could have eight feet wide for a regular car and a van is supposed to be eleven feet wide. Some of them are not. I imagine some of them are not. But, that's not so bad is they have one side is handicapped, they have like a cross, a walkway, then it goes to a place where it's a curb in the same crosswalk and that's Haritan (sounds like) Plaza on Front Street. One of the -- I was applying to, State of Rhode Island, meaning handicapped disability people and I have complained to two cities so it's not something I am trying to hide. Some of the people from the state of Rhode Island talk to me, I just say my name and they know who I am because I call a lot because there are a lot of different things I find that isn't right and I believe they should fix it. Like all the lights in Woonsocket, near the police station, they won't fix that one, for people to cross the streets and they finally fixed the others but I had to fight for months to get that done. I guess that's it for today because I am not thinking of anything right now. After I'm done talking I will think of something. But, it is what it is. Thank you very much for listening to me. Oh, I did have one question for you, you said you were with Seven Hills and you said you were for young people and older people, what do you do for the older people?

MELISSA CHARPENTIER: We do have an adult aid health program and we do the righted (sounds like) home program, shared living for elders and people with disabilities to stay with their families.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (CL) I have my wife home with me because I would rather have her home than a nursing home and stuff. I am lucky, I do get help in the morning and in the afternoon, and I

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

have an aid that comes in to help her get ready. But today she had to help her get ready to come with me. Thank you very much for your time.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Just to remind anyone that comes in, if they could please sign in, that would be very helpful. Sheila.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: My name is Sheila Turner (ST). I read an article in the paper where Raimondo, they're planning on speaking about incarceration for people with mental illness. I have a son who has mental illness. Cognitive disorder, learning disability, et cetera, et cetera. My problem is, he is a compulsive shoplifter. He has been diagnosed with all these different issues since he was about eleven and a half/15 years old. My problem is, I've been going back and forth to court, frequently, since he was 11 and a half years old. The issue that I'm having now is that by him continuing doing these different actions of shoplifting, he has a disease, it's a mental illness that keeps having him to go back and forth, back and forth into the system. The question I want to know, he is not a murder, he is not abusive. Why can't they just put him someplace that he can get the help that he needs to help with his sickness? The prison is not helping him. The prison is just making it worse. I had him out as of July 6th, for example, he was back in the ACI on July 11. I had to go find my son to transport him to butler hospital myself. I wanted help. By him being over the age of 18, he is liable to sign himself in or out, he doesn't have to stay if he doesn't want to. If they're mentally ill and sick. How does he know that he's sick? He don't know. So, if harm comes to my son, and I hate to say it, but it might be, I don't want the police officers come knocking on my door, telling me, it was all my son (sounds like), I don't want him to harm no one else, which he has not been combative but who's to say he won't become combative then I'll hear the news reports come to my house saying, did you know this, did you know that? No. I'm crying out for help, I had a judge who tried to help me in Massachusetts, he felt so bad because Rhode Island does not have the money or the facility to place older people to get the help they need. And I'm wondering, what can I do? Now I know, excuse me, sir, you're a lawyer. I know that, for me, to get whole, what's that word you say, guardianship for him, he would have to sign the papers. Each and every time he gets out of jail, I try to keep him long enough, I know him like a book, to get the papers signed. I can't do it. He keeps being admitted. How can I get the papers signed so I can have full control of him because I adopted him when, one years old (sounds like), ex-husband -- I had him since after birth, had him since age of 3, he has no facial expression, wouldn't speak on his own, I need help to get him signed documentation to give me full authority to take care of him, medically, and financially. Financially, now, SSI, they know that I control his money, whatever. But every time he goes to jail, the money stops. But I just need him to sign papers giving me full rights to his situation.

DORIAN HAVERS: How old is your son, Ma'am?

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (ST) As of now he's 22 years old. He's been through the system since he was 11 and a half years old, I had him in the women and infants hospital when he was first born through the program they have for people when they have narcotics and drugs he went to that program to the age of 18. Then at 11 and a half years old he stopped going to the group homes. At the group home, at the group home, at the group homes. Then I had him into a living facility as of last year, he couldn't stay there, he was not there a year before they had to discontinue his living status there. Now, I have lost my job, and last August, I am now living with my father who has dementia and I'm dealing with two people. I would like to have my son someplace safe that I don't have to worry, I don't have to have sleepless nights worrying about him. He has been in prison off and on at the age of, I mean, since he's been an adult, 18 years old/19 years old. As of last November he was locked down in the seg, segregation, but November or December, until July 6th. I couldn't even go see my son. I kept calling the prisons and so far the guards they know me, the people in the prison, I call out to them all the time, burn their ear off, I want to know how my son is doing because I know he has mental illness, he needs the medication and he won't take it. Now he's back in jail again. Now he's locked down in seg again, I still can't see him. So I don't want no harm to come to him, I just want him safe and I know a lot of the homes in the state of Rhode Island are not state homes, they are nonprofit homes. He needs a facility that is going to be locked down that he can have one-on-one communication with somebody and if he let go, I may find my son dead.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Julia --

JULIA LAMIERE: Julia Lamiere (sounds like), here on behalf of my sister, Antoinette Dufrane (sounds like), and she's been blinds for almost 7 years. And she now she's been on dialysis for almost a year and a half, I remember years ago because she is now on Medicaid, years and years ago they had the bus for dialysis go up towards McArthies and Walnut Hill Plaza and now they stop at that tool prays, price rite, she is legally blinds, she cannot see nothing in front of her face at all, why can't we get the buses to go back up to at least the dialysis place so she won't have to pay \$4 back and forth. She can get off the bus and stuff but in the meantime she's paying, she has the bus pass to go in the city but to go to dialysis she has to be put right there to get off the bus, to go there. Otherwise she, that's almost \$96 to \$100 something dollars a month taken out of her disability checks that she had to pay out of her own money. We have tried everything to get Medicaid, I've tried, and I don't know what I'm doing wrong. Seems like I'm missing \$40/50 but I'm trying to do everything honestly to get her on that but I can't. But that's one of my problems. Another problem is every time and I have gone walking with her in the wintertime, making her know the streets, being on dialysis, when you're really sick like that, the doctor will tell you, walk. Do a lot of walking, help yourself into the sun, get the vitamin D because you need it. She has had a lot of operations so she does do a lot of walking but in the meantime, she goes on the sidewalks, and like that party place on front street, she lives on Bernon street, 148 Bernon street, so she walks around the park and they put their stuff, the advertisements

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

in the middle of the sidewalk, a blinds person can't see that. One day she took a balloon home with her. It wasn't funny but people were kind of laughing at us, bad enough she's blinds that people need to have things in the middle of the sidewalk so she can walk. So the balloon got stuck on her cane and all that, oh, take the balloon anyway. I mean, insulting over insulting. So that's another thing. I wish you would try and communicate with these young kids, even the adults, what a white and red cane is. She will be walking across the street and she makes sure no one is coming because she lenter by the Carol (sounds like) center in mass, we sent her there for six months to learn how to cope because she does have letter own condo, she cooks and everything else but walks by herself so she will be halfway crossing the street and a car comes flying by not knowing what a red and white cane is, one of these days she will get hit but you know what she says? That's life. She goes in the crosswalk, too. That's another thing. But, there's a couple things. I'm new at this but these are some of the things I have been coming up with, going with her and seeing these things. But I'd like to have those issues straightened out to help her out, would probably make life easier for her but that bus thing would really really help, to be at dialysis because she goes there 3 days a week and it take a lot of toll on her money.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Anyone else who would like to speak? Approximate.

CHRISTINE: We have --

MARK THERRIEN: The bus doesn't go to walnut plaza anymore because there is not enough business. It's not about access, there aren't just people that want to go there, there isn't much there anymore.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: A lot of people go to price rite. Price rite is right here. Dialysis is like two houses from there. Just two houses.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (MT) But very few people take the bus to dialysis, usually they take nonemergency medical transportation, the vans or.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Vans cost \$4 each way.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (MT) That's RIDE. From trans perspective, it's about market and not enough people take the bus there, that's why we don't go there.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: She's willing to take the bus there as long as she's dropped off there, she'll wait for the next bus.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (MT) I understand but that's why the bus doesn't go there, there isn't enough business in walnut hill plaza.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: That's too bad. Thank you.

## 2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: I'm not sure if I'm in the right place here.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Excuse me, Ma'am, if could you please state your name and city.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: I'll stand up, I want to be sure I'm in the right place, Joanne Cormier (JC), Woonsocket Rhode Island. On (inaudible), I'm not sure if I'm in the right place but I'm willing to try and find out where I should be. I have a granddaughter with autism and my daughter who has custody of her, I am the grands mother and I was trying to see a place for her to go, a school for her to go instead of going to globe (sounds like) park which I don't feel is getting what she needs and she refuses to listen or do anything and I was just wondering if there is a way that I can do it myself or, I don't have custody or anything, I just want to help her to learn because she is a lovely little girl. She's fun, and it breaks my heart. If you can help me I'd appreciate it. Thank you.

MARGARET KNOWLTON: can I respond a little bit to that. So in regards to the custody issue and who has the rights, I know from a school that takes students in from schools like Globe Park or other public schools across the state, the parent has to make that decision with the School Department, so the School Department has to agree.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (JC) But she hasn't reached out at all. She doesn't reach out.

MARGARET KNOWLTON: right, so I think that's a whole separate issue on how you advocate for your granddaughter but I know because your daughter is legal guardian she would need to do that from the School Department perspective so you're in a tricky situation there.

DORIAN HAVERS: I'd like to add something, too. Obviously since you don't have custody, again, there is not anything that you can do directly. But, just to let you know, perhaps your daughter might be struggling just because she is not sure how to advocate for her daughter. There is an agency for the state called Rhode Island parent information network. They help parents in the state, everything from learning your rights within the education system to learning skills on maybe how to advocate and how to get the information that you need. Maybe if she had a little more information she would feel more comfortable even knowing how to navigate the process so that might be something that you can kind of work together to do. Maybe if she had you helping her through the process and using the right resources you would be able to get it done.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (JC) Thank you. She does have someone from Seven Hills coming in to help, 20 years old, unexperienced, just to help a little bit with her but doesn't seem to be really doing anything.

DORIAN HAVERS: How old is your granddaughter.

**2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families**

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920  
[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (JC) She has a birthday in August and she will be 7. My daughter is lazy, that's her problem.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Sheila Turner) It's sad that the child has to pay the price of a mother's ignorance to help their child because that child cannot speak for itself. So it's you trying to keep, you know, get into your daughter's head is about your daughter, not hers.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (JC) My daughter is mad at me right now, she won't even let me see the kids. I need help.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Anyone else like to speak.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (CL) Can I speak for a second time?

CHRISTINE: So if you're interested in contacting RIPIN, they can be reached at 270-.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Wait a minute.

CHRISTINE: I see a pad. 270-0101. And we have cards in the back Carmen will bring to you and you can contact them also.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (Charles) we go, people go to the family dollar store.

CARMEN BOUCHER: Can you please identify yourself.

MALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Sorry, Charles Lemoine, 174 St. Barnaby street in Woonsocket, people go to family dollar store on Clinton street and if you're in a chair or, (inaudible) mentioned to me earlier she goes in there and there is stuff all over the floor. Two weeks ago I called, I went to the fire department and asked for a marshal to go to the family dollar store, there was nothing on there, I went to the manager, he knows who I am because I complained when there is stuff on the floor. I said I have never seen your store so clean. I went in there about an hour ago and everything was on the floor. There's boxes, there's stuff in the aisles, on the push cart. So you can't get around. She goes in there, she ain't going to go around. I can't bring letter in any ways because they don't have the opening to get her on the sidewalk. But I'm just mentioning that because me and the woman over there were talking earlier and she did mention, I mentioned family dollar and she said, yeah, we go in there and there is stuff all over the floor. So, just trying to bring it up again because I want somebody to try and fix it for us.

CARMEN BOUCHER: We're going to be take ago ten-minute break just to give the interpreters some time to rest. We will resume again in ten minutes.

## **2015 Public Forums on the Concerns of People with Disabilities and their Families**

Governor's Commission on Disabilities, John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court, Cranston, RI 02920

[Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov](mailto:Gcd.disabilities@gcd.ri.gov) 401-462-0100 (voice) via 711 (tty) 462-0106 (fax)

---

CARMEN BOUCHER: We'd like to start again. If there's anyone else that would like to testify, or say anything, we really would like to thank everyone that has taken the time to come here today. We are here until 6:00 so if you know of any friends or anyone that has any concern that would like to come and testify, they also have different methods, you can actually write up letters and send them, as well. In the back, we have a lot of different resources and actually, there is one that has information about what the public forums, the comments of different individuals have actually made changes on the state so it's kind of nice, sometimes, to see where your concerns have been going and how they have made a difference. As you know, some things can go very quickly, others can take a little time but because of dedication of taking time to come here today and express your concerns that makes a difference. You are making a difference for yourselves and for the state of Rhode Island, for the individuals that are not able to be here today so we thank you for that. I just want today give opportunities to let you know that you can still come if you think of other concerns you have, to say them. And if not, like I said we will be here until 6:00. Thank you.

FEMALE AUDIENCE SPEAKER: (SL) Thank you for making this available to us. Thank you.