



Dear Committee Members:

Hello. My name is Laura Hall. I am writing to you today representing Disability Network/Michigan, the statewide association of Michigan's 14 Center's for Independent Living that provide services to people with disabilities. Perhaps more importantly, however, I am also a person with a disability myself, a wheelchair user who relies on public transportation and my power wheelchair to take me most places I need to go.

As I sit here thinking about what I would like you to know about navigating the world with a disability, I realize that even my journey to this coffee shop to write this testimony is an example of how important it is for Complete Streets to be implemented into our communities. On my way here I passed an older woman using her walker, a father with his young son, a biker, and two friends jogging. Despite this mix of people, and their various needs for safe pathways, on my short trip I also ran into roads and sidewalks riddled with cracks and holes, a lack of curb cuts, no street crossing signals, and a general lack of travel space.

So often when talking about providing access for people with disabilities, people think of the "special and separate" concept, the ramp in the rear entrance, the service elevator that doubles as an elevator to accommodate wheelchairs, etc. Very rarely are accommodations designed to be integrated into the environment and useful for everyone. What makes Complete Streets exciting is that these are policies that defy "special and separate". They are design concepts that are not retrofitted, but done correctly the first time to provide access for all, not just people with disabilities.

With 1 in 5 people living with a disability and Michigan's population aging everyday, I believe we cannot afford to NOT have Complete Streets in our communities. It makes common sense and economic sense. Therefore, I urge you to support the Complete Streets Legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Laura Hall  
Disability Network/Michigan

1476 Haslett Road  
Haslett, MI 48840  
T 517-339-0539  
F 517-339-0805  
[www.dnmichigan.org](http://www.dnmichigan.org)