



## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

# RESOLUTION

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**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission believes that the words and images we use to describe each other matter; and

**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission agrees with the Michigan Accessibility Advocacy Organizations and individual Michiganders with disabilities who believe that the official graphic images used by the state to indicate accessibility are dated and convey a negative stereotype of persons with disabilities; and

**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission believes that using the term “handicapped” to officially describe accommodations like accessible parking spaces is dated and disparaging; and

**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission asserts that using an accessibility symbol that displays a more active and engaged individual will contribute to bringing about a shift in cultural consciousness away from defining people by their disabilities, to one where we are all defined by our abilities; and

**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission recognizes that there is a grassroots effort worldwide to modernize the outdated accessibility icon currently used in Michigan with a modified icon promoted by the Accessible Icon Project; and

**Whereas,** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission believes the AIP icon better communicates that individuals with disabilities are active persons who can and should be engaged in all aspects of public life:

**It is Resolved:** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports efforts to end the use of the word “handicapped” in all Michigan laws, regulations, forms, brochures, and specifically in any references to parking and/or related placards or license plates, and to adopt the use of the word “accessible”; and

**It is Resolved:** The Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports legislation that would replace the traditional “handicapped” icon currently used and sanctioned by the State of Michigan with the “accessibility” icon proposed by the Accessible Icon Project.



Adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, by the  
**MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Rasha Demashkieh, Co-Chair  
Mumtaz Haque, Secretary  
Ricardo Resio  
Linda Lee Tarver

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Deloris Hunt  
Laura Reyes-Kopack  
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