



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**27th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST SENATE
27 APRIL 2022**

**BILL #5127
Support for Staffing the 1-Year Pilot Transportation Program for CSU's Disabled Community**

WRITTEN BY: Christian Dykson, ASCSU President

ENDORSED BY: Ariadne Athey, Chair for Internal Affairs Committee, Senator for Student Disability Center; Bailey Shepherd, Senator for College of Liberal Arts; Benton Roesler, Director of Housing Security; Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center; Anya Kaplan-Hartnett, Director of Governmental Affairs; University Affairs Committee

Abstract: This bill will invest \$42,000 towards the staffing of the 1-year pilot transportation program that will serve the needs of CSU's disabled community, namely those with mobility challenges. This bill will earmark \$42,000 in ASCSU funding, contingent upon an equal match from Student Disability Center. The collective funding will ensure the 1-year pilot transportation program has full staffing, which will be integral in re-launching this critical program within our community.

WHEREAS

Prior to the pandemic, the Student Disability Center (SDC) used to operate a transportation service for CSU's disabled community, staffed by CSU students and staff, which addressed some mobility and transportation needs faced by the disabled community; and,

WHEREAS

At one point, 12-15 students and staff members allegedly worked on the operations and programmatic elements of the program; and,

WHEREAS

The most recent vehicle, used in the previous program, has broken down and is no longer in use by the Student Disability Center, which has jeopardized the future of the program. The absence of a staffing strategy has also jeopardized the continuity of the program; and,

WHEREAS

According to rough estimates provided by staff at Parking and Transportation, the average vehicle with competitive gas mileage, fuel economy, total miles, and ADA-outfitted features will cost approximately \$80,000-95,000. The estimated cost to staff the 1-year pilot program is \$83,375; and,

WHEREAS

Transportation and mobility services must be defined in terms of student success and closing equity gaps, which are of specific interest to CSU Administration and CSU Board of Governors. There are few examples as direct as one's ability to access the classroom, and all of the associated learning and experiential benefits; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University has an ethical and moral responsibility to go beyond the bare-legal-minimum code of ADA and define what it means to become a premier institution for accessibility and inclusion; and,

WHEREAS

To revamp the program, ASCSU recognizes the importance of addressing the previous concerns with the program, namely: 1) reliability, 2) continuity in staffing, and 3) resource availability for those with mobility challenges; and,

WHEREAS

The idea for purchasing an accessible van was raised by students during the February meeting of the Provost Student Financial Advisory Committee (PSFAC), following a conversation that ASCSU President Dykson had with a student on campus with mobility challenges who travels multiple miles per day with little assistance from the institution. The PSFAC student representatives also determined that a clear staffing strategy is a critical factor in the success of the program; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU prides itself in representing the student voice, and therefore, must represent all voices, which is the pretext for the financial proposal within this bill; and,

WHEREAS

Although the ASCSU Fund Balance is intended to serve as a rainy-day savings account for the organization (in the event of unanticipated expenses), the fund balance has reached an unsustainable threshold, well

beyond the 12-15% mark consistent with other budgets of similar size; and,

WHEREAS

The student fees of past generations were collected with the assurance that students would be impacted by the stewardship and investment of those funds. Over time, those funds have accumulated and are now available for ASCSU to invest in meaningful projects; and,

WHEREAS

Investing in transportation and mobility alternatives for CSU's disabled community is a worthy example of project investments that will impact student lives; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

If the Student Disability Center can provide \$42,000 towards the staffing costs of the 1-year pilot program, ASCSU will provide an equal match of \$42,000; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That these earmarked funds in the ASCSU Fund Balance will be utilized by either Parking and Transportation or Student Disability Center to manage the staffing and logistics of the 1-year pilot program. The pledge from SDC can be in the form of an agreement of good faith, signed letter, signed memo, or formal memorandum of understanding; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

Upon the aforementioned requirements being fulfilled (namely, receiving confirmation from SDC), \$5,000 will be transferred from ASCSU Office of the President Discretionary to the Senate Discretionary to then be earmarked in the ASCSU Fund Balance with the aforementioned stipulations and for the use of either Parking and Transportation or Student Disability Center for the staffing of the 1-year pilot program; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

Upon the aforementioned requirements being fulfilled (namely, receiving confirmation from SDC), \$37,000 will be transferred from ASCSU Fund Balance to the Senate Discretionary to then be allocated and earmarked in the Fund Balance with the aforementioned stipulations and for the use of either Parking and Transportation or Student Disability Center for the staffing of the 1-year pilot program; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That ASCSU applauds the support of Vice President Lynn Johnson, and her team's willingness to fund the purchase of the ADA-outfitted vehicle for this program. ASCSU also strongly encourages the university to select the vendor/manufacture that maximizes benefit in the

following criteria: (1) vendors/manufacturers that can provide a vehicle in less than 4 months, (2) vehicles with competitive total mileage, (3) vehicles that Northern Colorado auto-shops can easily service, (4) vehicles with competitive fuel economy, as an extension of the university's commitment to minimizing carbon footprint, (5) vehicles with the maximum number of accessible features, and (6) cost-competitiveness; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That all funds must be utilized by January 1, 2024, otherwise the earmarked funds will expire and any remaining funding will become available in the ASCSU Fund Balance for general ASCSU expenditures; and,

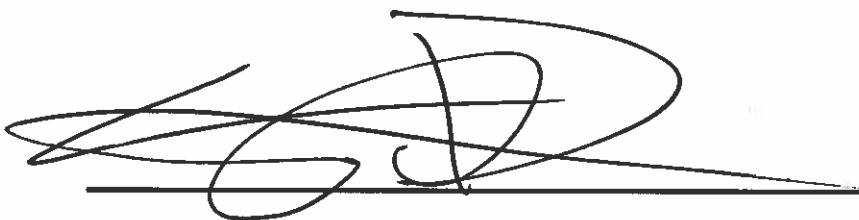
THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the passage of this legislation shall represent ASCSU's resounding support for this project, and continued support for the university's endeavors to close equity gaps for CSU's disabled students.

PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF BILL #5127

INTRODUCED — 26th SESSION **20 APRIL 2022**

SENATE PASSAGE — 21-0-0 **27 APRIL 2022**

 4/29/2022

ASCSU PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN DYKSON **DATE**

THAT A COPY OF THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO

- Joyce McConnell, Colorado State University President
- Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Kauline Cipriani, CSU Vice President, Office of Inclusive Excellence
- Lynn Johnson, Vice President for University Operations
- Angie Nielsen and Dave Ryan, Interim Directors of University Operations

Justin Dove, Director of the Student Sustainability Center

Aaron Fodge, Alternative Transportation Manager, CSU Parking and Transportation

David Bradford, Director of CSU Parking and Transportation

Terry Schlicting, CSU Accommodations Specialist

Ariadne Athey, ASCSU Senator for the Student Disability Center
