

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The high cost of independence

Friday, December 08, 2006

YOUR editorial "Will you help Carol Campbell get to work?" (Nov. 30) about the cost of purchasing and modifying a van with a lift to allow Councilwoman Carol Campbell to get around her district, you identified, unintentionally, a critical issue.

People with disabilities face exorbitant costs for accessible equipment, like transportation and power wheelchairs, that is necessary for people to work, shop, visit friends and live an active and independent life.

The average cost of a van modified to add a lift is \$50,000, slightly more than the city is paying. If the Daily News is angry about the cost, and rightfully so, direct that anger where it belongs, at the vendors and manufacturers who charge excessive prices, not the person who needs it to live independently.

--- Corey L. Rowley, Pennsylvania Statewide
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