



BEFORE



AFTER

### *Symbol of Access for Mobility-Impaired People*

The present wheelchair symbol and its designation as a symbol for *all* disabled people has been reviewed because of the rigid image it portrays, and its association with the word “handicapped” which literally means “cap in hand” or “beggar.” It is our feeling that under no circumstances should the term “handicapped” be used in conjunction with this new symbol or efforts to comply with the ADA.

The new symbol tries to be sensitive to both the message and the audience — the person is no longer imprisoned by the chair — the chair is merely the vehicle with which he or she gains access. Activity and movement are suggested with body positioning — the angle of the torso, and the “pushing position” of the arm. It attempts to portray an active, independent person, in sharp contrast to the former symbol which has been described as dependent, rigid, and helpless.

We think this is a perfect example of how to progressively communicate easy access and consideration to citizens who have disabilities.

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