

GOOD WORK. ON TIME.

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Testimony time: Replacing the original leather seat and homemade cushion in my 40-year-old wheelchair with an Aeron seat (Herman Miller, Inc.) is enhancing my quality of life each and every day. How much do I love this seat? Let me count the ways.

Foremost, the porous feature dissipates heat, which evaporates sweat, which is a big deal in Texas in August. Take the tiniest pressure sore, cook it with heat and sweat, and you have a real problem. The Aeron seat applies brilliant (common-sense) physics to a critical situation, to the everlasting benefit of the user.

Then there's the elegant, understated design. The seat holds me in place, posture upright, even traversing lumpy asphalt parking lots and aggregate sidewalks. Amazing. I used to be slumped and half out of my chair after experiencing such terrain. Not anymore.

I have used a wheelchair for about 50 of my 62 years. For the last 10 years a persistent posterior pressure sore has never been far from my thoughts. I have sat on a donut (they're better with milk), a quadrant-adjustable air cushion (like sitting on a beachball), an egg-grate cushion (pointy foam rubber is still pointy) and, finally, Walmart foam rubber on a piece of wood cut out around the sore (actually the best of a bad lot). Now after a month with the Aeron seat, the pressure sore hurts much less and appears to be healing. My diaphragm's not restricted since I'm sitting straighter. My eyes are more lustrous, too, and my coat more shiny, but that's probably diet.

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Associate Director/newsroom adviser, 1970-1998
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Student Publications

The University of Texas at Arlington