



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SB0705 - Maryland Transit Administration – Disabled
Reduced Fare Program – Opioid Treatment Program Patients
Before the Finance Committee
on March 11, 2020**

Mr. Chairman, Vice chair, and Members of the Committee:

This bill authorizes opioid treatment centers to issue reduced fare bus passes to its patients in good standing.

Addictions treatment and recovery is a frail process and even something that seems small can be catastrophic. Not having transportation to and from treatment is exactly one of those barriers. Allowing patients to purchase reduced-fare bus passes at their treatment program, rather than requiring them to make the trip to the only place in Maryland - 6 Saint Paul Street in Baltimore - where such a pass can be obtained, is just one way we can ease the burden on those struggling to maintain their recovery.

As the fiscal note points out, since 2017, this body has enacted no fewer than nine laws to address the opioid crisis in Maryland. The fiscal 2020 budget includes nearly \$710 million in funding aimed at the scourge of opioid addiction. This bill is revenue neutral. It provides a much-needed benefit to those fighting their addiction.

No-one is opposed to this bill. I urge a favorable report from this committee on SB 705.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill P. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a distinct "P" and "C".

Jill P. Carter