

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 1204

My name is Niesha McCoy and I am writing testimony in favor of HB 1204, the Transportation Equity And Assurances Act. The Transportation Equity and Assurances Act will help ensure transportation equity among all Marylanders.

About 560,000 people with disabilities never leave home because of transportation difficulties or maybe go far from home. Poor access to transit leaves many alienated from the economic mainstream. I am one of those 560,000 and a MTA Mobility rider. When I was about 25 years old, I applied for a job with Aflac, but I could not take the job because it was in Greenbelt, Maryland, outside of the mobility service area. If I had a car, I could have easily made it to Greenbelt, Maryland. Limited transportation services hampered opportunities that could help me grow in my career at the time. In 2018, I was invited to attend an event at the Howard County Public Library, but MTA Mobility nor Taxi Access would not travel that far because it is outside the Mobility service area. I ask you, is it fair that I am at a disadvantage for better opportunities because of limited transit services?

Access to equitable transportation should be a right for all Marylanders instead of being treated as a privilege.