

Testimony in Support of HB 284: Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement

To: Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Daniel Richman

March 30, 2021

My name is Dan Richman. I am a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, legislative District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 284, enforcement of dedicated bus lanes.

I use buses, walking or running, and a car to get around Baltimore and I experience traffic congestion, a frenzied driving environment, and dangerous streets while using all these modes.

From all of these vantage points, having private cars filling every possible surface makes our streets much harder and more dangerous to use for everybody involved. Instead, allowing the bus service to perform better would carry more people in less space, would cost less to individuals and to the state (private car ownership has a lot of ill consequences and costs for the state), and for less damage to our health (combustion, brake, and tire particulates).

Unfortunately, I see dedicated bus lanes around the city that are still filled with cars making bus service worse. For example, I use North Ave in East Baltimore by car, bus, or on foot, and I see cars blocking the way of buses on that dedicated lane. We need bus lane enforcement alongside red light and speed enforcement to improve our transportation system.

I respectfully urge a favorable report for HB 284.