



January 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Benjamin S. Barnes and Honorable Mark S. Chang
RE: HB 98

Dear Chairman Barnes and Vice Chairman Chang:

We, the DeafBlind Marylanders, support this bill because we believe that it greatly benefits us and our livelihood as citizens. For many years, we have relied on volunteers with their limited schedule to guide us around to places that we need to go to and to provide us reading services (reading mail, newspaper, etc.). It would be nice to have trained co-navigators in the state that allow us to have greater independence.

We look forward to the passage of this House Bill (HB 98) and having co-navigators as a reality. We look forward to our productive and equitable lives for DeafBlind Marylanders.

We thank the CN Bill Committee under Metro-Washington Association of the DeafBlind and with close collaboration with Maryland Association of the Deaf for their hard work in making HB 98 a reality.

Thank you.

Bruce Denhart
Acting President

CC: DeafBlind Community

MWADB is a social organization where DeafBlind people and their friends meet on a regular basis to share stories and enjoy activities. The DeafBlind members are people who have both some hearing and visual loss in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia.