Steven D. Collins, PhD 3393 Leisure World Blvd Silver Spring, MD 2090

January 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Benjamin S. Barnes and Honorable Mark S. Chang

RE: HB 98

Dear Chairman Barnes and Vice Chairman Chang:

We support this bill because we believe that deafblind Marylanders shall utilize their autonomy at its fullest, one of the ways they can do that is by having a co-navigator. That will help them come out of their homes and be organically part of the community at large as they have a lot to offer to the citizens of Maryland.

We hope that the passage of this House Bill (HB 98) is actualized and becomes a reality. We look forward to a productive and equitable lives for deafblind Marylanders.

Thank you.

Steven D. Collins, DeafBlind Educator Retired Professor of Gallaudet University su