

January 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Brian J. Feldman and Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan  
RE: S 185

Dear Chairman Feldman and Madam Vice Chairman Kagan:

I support this bill because I 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.

My grandmother has been deafblind my entire life. It is incredibly frustrating to witness the lack of accomodation for deafblind individuals my entire life- my mother and I constantly have to take off work to assist my grandmother in simple tasks all because there is no co-navigator. Additionally it will improve my grandmother's livelihood, to not feel like a burden to family, to be able to carry out her errands as any other human can do. Deafblind individuals are human just like everyone else, they don't deserve the lack of accomodation and access they have been denied for centuries.

I hope that the passage of this Senate Bill (S 185) is actualized and becomes a reality. I look forward to a productive and equitable lives for deafblind Marylanders.

Thank you.

Samantha Brown