

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Good Afternoon Chair and Vice Chair of the Education, Environment, and Energy Committee/ Appropriations Committee and members of the Committee.

My name is John Reske. I live in Rockville, Maryland.

I am here in support of SB 185/ HB 98; the Co-Navigation bill. This bill is important because after my 18 years drive any vehicles, it's no longer to drive any vehicles, its cause my vision has glaucoma then my eyes became losing in my sight, I could not see at night time as well, it's missing something to see enough, but I could not find some anything completed yet. Its mean just missing to find it. Take me longer to find something alike at home I drop piece on the floor then time to look for on the floor where I lose something. Evenly as take time to communication with a person who is Co Navigator CN with ASL and tactile with hands gather as connect its make easier to communication without sight and hearing. So alike example on the floor where the piece I drop something then take time to look for it. The CN person can help me to find a piece from the floor. Example hearing driver and guide with deaf blind became cause lock of communication with no ASL connection. Its harder to communicate. Where the piece to find from floor? No one be willing to help to deaf blind. Its completed deaf and blind. That why CN help to person where the piece on the floor. That mean CN can helpful to deaf blind to with CN to find the piece from the floor. CN showed the piece from the floor. Then CN/s hand grab softly through to other person 's hand to touch, deaf blind's hand connect hands gather to start using with ASL communicate gather, hand to hand gather, deafblind can't see and hear at all. their hands to connect hands to hands gather to communicate about a piece from the floor, let them know where the piece from the floor. That how it work to use hands gather. Along I had using ride the buses, cab, and van service. I had been difficult to communication with hearing driver for many years. The driver got wrong direction how to guide with the blind person. That why I have two combination with vision and hearing. It's not separate situation. Sometime I get wrong way while I ride the bus route. I looked up on bus schedule to make sure to read it. I have been using for reading with buses schedule and put down for what time on the buses route then I walk with my mobility cane. I got a bus came and I asked the driver for where the bus going to? I thought the direction were right tracking. I sat on the bus and I noticed that I got wrong way. I got off the bus and walk across the street for try go back right direction. that I did it. It/s happen to me for few times. Also I do still ride the transit

service its helpful to get driver gave me a ride schedule from home to appointment schedule by through to get a transit. The transit driver and I had been difficult to communication. They speak to me too fast. I told driver please speak need slow down please slow down with me. It's happened few times. Most of time hard to find a ride to contact them for help me las need time to time than not became delay to find a ride for another appointment with doctor office etc. Also I can't see the snow what look like how many inches of snow on the ground. My eyes had a hard time to see now ground how higher or less of few snow. My vision cause of "Blind snow".

Passing this bill will improve my life.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I ask for a favorable report on SB 185/HB. 98.

Respectfully,
John Reske

CN Bill Committee Team