

Chair Barnes and Vice Chair Chang, thank you for your time to read this. My name is Kevin Steffy. I have been working with the DeafBlind community in Maryland by providing Communication Facilitators (CF) who will facilitate the conversation between DeafBlind individuals and anyone on any kind of video conferencing like Zoom, Facetime, Videophone/ VRS, Skype, Duo, etc. since 2021. I have been noticing that after CF has done their jobs then left, DeafBlind individuals become isolated and leave behind with no access to what happens out there and struggle to go out and do whatever. I believe that it is very important that a Co-Navigator (CN) to be provided so a person can guide them to wherever they want to go to like grocery, doctor, see family/friend. I think that CF person also can be CN after their CF job is done.

Our governor, Wes Moore's quote "Leave No One Behind". We can't leave those DeafBlind individuals behind. I am encouraging you to support this bill. Thank you for your time to read my testify.