



DEAFBLIND CAMP OF MARYLAND, INC.

1040 S. Beechfield Ave
Baltimore Md. 21229

January 29, 2024

Dear Chairman Feldman and Madam Vice Chairman Kagan,

I trust this letter finds you well. We, the members of DeafBlind Marylanders, are writing to express our wholehearted support for Senate Bill S 185. We believe that this legislation holds great promise for enhancing the lives of DeafBlind individuals in our state by providing them with trained co-navigators.

For far too long, we have relied on the goodwill of volunteers with constrained schedules to assist us in navigating our surroundings and providing reading services for essential tasks such as reading mail and newspapers. The introduction of a formalized co-navigator program would empower us with greater independence, allowing us to lead more productive and equitable lives as citizens.

We eagerly anticipate the passage of Senate Bill S 185 and the subsequent implementation of the co-navigator program. The prospect of having trained professionals to guide us in our daily activities is not only a matter of convenience but also a crucial step towards fostering inclusivity and autonomy for DeafBlind Marylanders.

We extend our gratitude to the CN Bill Committee under the DeafBlind Camp of Maryland, and we appreciate their dedicated efforts in collaboration with the Maryland Association of the Deaf. Their hard work and advocacy have been instrumental in bringing Senate Bill S 185 to fruition, and we are thankful for their commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of DeafBlind individuals in our state.

In conclusion, we are hopeful for the swift passage of S 185 and the subsequent establishment of the co-navigator program. We believe that this initiative will contribute significantly to the well-being and independence of DeafBlind Marylanders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to a future where the DeafBlind community can thrive with increased support and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Bruce Denhart, Board Member