



January 26, 2024

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

Dear Chairman Feldman and Madam Vice Chairman Kagan:

We, the DeafBlind Marylanders, support this bill because we believe that it greatly benefits us and our livelihood as citizens. For many years, we have relied on volunteers with their limited schedule to guide us around to places that we need to go to and to provide us reading services (reading mail, newspaper, etc.). It would be nice to have trained co-navigators in the state that allow us to have greater independence.

We look forward to the passage of this Senate Bill (S 185) and having co-navigators as a reality. We look forward to our productive and equitable lives for DeafBlind Marylanders.

We thank the CN Bill Committee under Metro-Washington Association of the DeafBlind and with close collaboration with Maryland Association of the Deaf for their hard work in making S 185 a reality.

Thank you.

Bruce Denhart
Acting President

CC: DeafBlind Community

MWADB is a non-profit organization where DeafBlind people and their friends meet on a regular basis for support, education, and advocacy. The DeafBlind members are people who have both some hearing and visual loss in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia.