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Favorable, HB1144 -State Public Transit Service and Stations - Exclusion for Assault and Bodily Injury

REPRESENTATIVES

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BRUNSWICK
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Local 1949
JACOB STROMAN

To the Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair; Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Hello, my name is Trena Few. I am a member of the Transportation Division of SMART. I work as a Conductor for Amtrak and MARC with 13 years of service. I am urging a favorable report on **HB1144**.

While working on an Amtrak train in Wilmington, DE, a woman, running down the platform, came to me and asked is this train whatever. I replied to her no, this is not your train, we do not accept passengers at this location, we only let them off.

She immediately became belligerent. Swearing, cursing at me. She even spit on me. A conductor from another train, located across the platform from me radioed for police assistance. Being that the attack was unprovoked, if it weren't for him being there, I'm certain things would've escalated further.

As a Maryland resident, I fully support **HB1144**. The commuting public utilizing public transit service depends on us to get them to and from safely. When people feel that they can get away with doing anything they want, lawlessness takes hold. At which point it becomes impossible to do our jobs.

We as a State must send the message, that riding public transit service is a privilege. One that should not be abused. One that should be protected. Victims of assault should not have to face their attackers day after day after day as is currently the case.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge a favorable report!

Trena Few
Conductor
Member, SMART Transportation Division
Local 1470