

DAVID PENDELTON SR.
Chairperson/Director

TOM CAHILL
Vice Chairperson/Assistant
Director

BRITTANY GARRIS
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
99 Cathedral Street
Suite 201
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: (240) 271-9420
smartmdsla@yahoo.com

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

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
RANDY MARTZ

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
BRITTANY GARRIS

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHN WALKER

Local 1949
JACOB STROMAN

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

My name is Jay Johnson, I am a member of the Transportation Division of
SMART and a Train Conductor with 15 years of service working for Amtrak
and MARC. I am here today, urging a favorable report for ***HB1144 -
Exclusion for Assault and other Bodily Injury.***

While working on a MARC train, stopped in West Baltimore, I was accosted
by a person with whom I had repeated problems with. I was struck with a
blunt object to my head and neck. I was taken to a hospital, where I
received 3 staples to my head. This assault left me out of work for 9
months.

Not only was I physically bruised, but I was emotionally scarred, still
traumatized to this day. For two years, I sought help from a licensed
therapist. Additionally, I had to have plastic surgery to help the scar on my
head seem less gruesome, but it's still visible.

There were hundreds of public transit workers who were assaulted last
year for simply doing their jobs. ***HB1144*** would provide a measure of
protection for us. Create a safe environment for the public to commute and
for us to serve them in.

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

Jay Johnson
SMART Transportation Division
Local 1470