



**JAN H. GARDNER**  
**Frederick County**  
**Executive**

**HB 1417**

**Dialysis Patient Transportation  
Fund & Task Force to Study the  
Dialysis Patient Transportation Fund**

**County Position: SUPPORT**

Date: March 4, 2020  
Committee: Health & Government Operations

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your **SUPPORT** for House Bill 1417 – Dialysis Patient Transportation Fund and Task Force to Study the Dialysis Patient Transportation Fund.

Dialysis treatments are critical and life-prolonging for patients, and are not only costly in terms of the medical care, but, for many, because of transportation needs. While a substantial number of dialysis patients require transport to and from regular treatments, the costs are not covered by Medicare.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Establishes, identifies, and appropriates funds for a Dialysis Patient Transportation Fund (Fund) to reimburse local governments for the provision of transportation for patients to kidney dialysis facilities, thereby offsetting a portion of the direct costs incurred by counties providing transportation for dialysis patients;
- Supports the Fund through the shared responsibility of both local governments and certified dialysis centers in the transportation of the patients each serve;
- Establishes a task force to study the impact of the Fund with regard to patient access, costs of transportation to dialysis treatment, the amount of direct costs incurred by counties, and the effect of fees on these costs and on certified kidney dialysis centers; and
- Results in ensuring county governments meet the increasing demand for transport to regular dialysis treatment, which in Frederick County accounts for 30% of rider demand, and a substantial decrease or elimination of the denial of transport requests.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges **SUPPORT** and a **FAVORABLE REPORT** for House Bill 1417.