



Testimony on HB 114
Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act
House Appropriations Committee
February 3, 2021

Favorable

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the tens of thousands of disabled Marylanders who rely on Mobility Paratransit. To put it simply, Mobility is a lifeline for riders. In many cases, it is the only safe and viable mode of transportation.

Continued failure to fund Mobility's capital needs will severely impact the physical, mental and emotional health of many of its riders. Not to mention the effects it could have on their livelihood, professional and personal relationships, as well as their ability to receive adequate and necessary health care.

Without funding to provide safe and reliable transit will be detrimental to the disability community! Although buses are accessible, in many cases it is not a safe or reliable option for riders with disabilities. A few examples of this include, but are not limited to, the condition of the bus stop, bus route, having to transfer to another bus, on time performance and in some cases lack of seats. These conditions create barriers to using the system safely and independently.

When making your decision, I urge you to put yourself in the shoes of the tens of thousands of riders who use mobility to maintain independence and work to be active members of the community. Could you imagine a reality where a significant part of your independence was taken away? How that would feel? How it would negatively affect your life? Again, this is a lifeline, this service is needed, it is the only option for many!

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

/s/

Danielle Phelps
Vice-Chair
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