



Councilmember Antonio Glover
13th District
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The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 184 - Maryland Transit Administration – Reduced Fare Program for Opioid Treatment Program Patients – Program Requirements

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I want to state my opposition to SB184. This bill undermines SB705, which was passed in the 2020 Session.

SB705 (with its related corrections bill introduced during the 2021 Session, SB399) is intended to improve significantly access to substance abuse treatment by patients of OTPs, by allowing those OTPs to issue MTA disability bus passes onsite. SB184 seeks to make such available only to OTPs with no regulatory violations at any time during the past ten years. While I can appreciate wanting to hold OTPs accountable to that standards set forth for their operation, 10 years is a very long time to prevent their patients from receiving the benefits set forth in SB705. It punishes not only the OTPs, but the patients and their families as well.

With the opioid epidemic, we should be supporting patients who want to access and maintain treatment, not creating barriers to treatment. I believe, there are other means in which to hold OTPs accountable, without risking the health of those seeking treatment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antonio Glover". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Councilmember Antonio Glover