



Councilmember Antonio Glover  
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January 28, 2021

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re:** Senate Bill 399 - Maryland Transit Administration - Disabled Reduced Fare Program for Opioid Treatment Program Patients - Modifications

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I wish to offer my enthusiastic support for SB399, which aim to allow licensed Opioid Treatment Programs (“OTPS”) in good standing to issue discounted disability monthly MTA bus passes on site to their patients. Numerous studies have found that treatment accessibility is critically important to the recovery process. If a patient cannot get to treatment (e.g., because it is too far, they do not have money for the bus, etc.), then he or she will miss days, which, at the very least, disrupts their treatment, but most likely effectively ends it. At an OTP, patients must generally present themselves for medication daily.

As we look for several ways to support the community affected by opioid addiction, simply providing them a bus pass to be able to receive treatments that will help them to achieve recovery is the bare minimum that the state could do to help fight this crisis. This will prevent patients from relapsing and contributing to the drug problem that is already prevalent in parts of the city.

For the record, Turning Point is an extremely well-run facility. Under the direction of Rev. Williams, Turning Point has managed to maintain an impeccable record of no violations over the past seven years. Turning Point is in my district, and I extend my full support to the purpose and mission of Turning Point, and their ability to issue these critically useful bus passes on site, just as prescribed in SB399. My belief is that they are part of the solution, not part of the problem.

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