



HEARING DATE: January 26, 2021
BILL NO/TITLE: Senate Bill 210 - **COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity**
COMMITTEE: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
POSITION: **Support**

The Maryland motorcoach industry is vital to Maryland providing essential transportation services connecting rural communities, relieving congestion in urban centers with commuter operations, transporting children to school and educational events, and serving as the only means of transportation for travelers on fixed incomes or without cars. We also play a key role in emergency and defense planning. In times of hurricanes and other natural disasters, motorcoaches are a critical to helping evacuate residents, particularly senior citizens. We constantly support our U.S. military by moving troops and their equipment for deployments and training around the country, similar to what we did at the recent inauguration of our 46th president, and our industry plays a direct role in defending the U.S. Capitol and Maryland.

Motorcoaches are essential to Maryland's transportation, supporting the students, military, commuters and residents alike. Now more than ever, the flexibility and reliability of our services should be protected. As we witnessed at the onset of the pandemic private motorcoach carriers' services came to an abrupt halt and their wheel's stopped rolling decreasing their annual revenue by almost 95%. We need to roll again to remain in business.

Protecting our members that are following government guidelines from frivolous lawsuits is a priority of MMA and these lawsuits have the potential to cripple their recovery effort. MMA urges this committee to support the narrow, limited protections offered by SB210 so that we can continue safely transporting Marylanders without worrying about potential frivolous lawsuits.

About Maryland Motorcoach Association(MMA): MMA represents the interests of the Privately Owned Maryland Motorcoach Operators across the state and industry together with our tourism partners, destination marketing organizations, small businesses, coach manufacturers, and equipment suppliers all of whom are counted among our members we strive to promote the efficient and secure transportation of Marylanders across the state and throughout the country transporting students, seniors, military, church groups, commuters, and a multitude of other Marylanders as they go about their day to day business of working and enjoying life in Maryland.

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