



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

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**House Appropriations Committee**

**HB 1019: Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding**

**March 8, 2022**

**Position: Support with Amendments**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **As such, the DD Council supports HB 1019 because it is a step towards increasing access to public transit for people with disabilities in Maryland. However, an amendment is needed to ensure the language used in the legislation accurately reflects what people with disabilities need and want.**

The recommended amendment is to redefine “elderly and handicapped person” to more appropriately identify people with disabilities:

On page 2, lines 1-4, insert “Individual with disabilities means any person, who has a qualified disability and is negatively and disproportionately impacted by inaccessible mass transit facilities and services.”

People with disabilities rely on affordable, accessible public transportation to access resources, such as urgent health services, food and other groceries, employment, and social and educational opportunities. Equity in transportation is critical for people with disabilities and their ability to contribute economically, socially, and politically. Affordable transportation options for people with disabilities remain an ongoing challenge. More efforts must be made to ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable and reliable transportation.

**For these reasons, the DD Council supports HB 1019 with an amendment.**

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