CORY V. McCray Legislative District 45 Baltimore City

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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

James Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street, Room 221 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165 800-492-7122 Ext. 3165 Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

March 29, 2022

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 862 Baltimore City - Maryland Transit Administration – Transit Services for Public School Students

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

I write to urge you to **support** Senate Bill 862. In efforts to safeguard access to transportation for Baltimore City Public School students, it is critical that Senate Bill 862 receives a favorable report.

Baltimore City is the only jurisdiction in the State of Maryland where the vast majority of students use public transit vehicles as a means of transportation to get to school. The purpose of Senate Bill 862 is to require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to provide ridership, from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., to Baltimore City Public School students. Additionally, this bill prohibits MTA from seeking payment or reimbursement from providing these services. By implementing this bill, the General Assembly will be ensuring that the City's youth have a secured option of transportation to and from school and educational extracurricular activities.

The provision of this service is a fundamental necessity for Baltimore City Public School students, as it guarantees them transport to school and mobilizes our youth to take advantage of educational opportunities. If adopted, this agreement will remain in effect for five years—guaranteeing access for a sufficient period.

If enacted, Senate Bill 862 would take effect July 1, 2022, and will require that certain practices be adopted in accordance with the law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 862.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory V. McCray State Senator, 45th District