



March 3, 2022

*Achieve with us.*

**Southern Maryland** Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Community Resource Center  
Administrative Offices  
Behavior Support Services**

355 West Dares Beach Road  
P.O. Box 1860  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
410.535.2413  
Fax: 410.535.4124  
Behavior Support Services  
Fax: 410.535.1314

RE: Statement of Support: HB 1243 Rural Non-emergency Medical  
Transportation (NMET)

Dear Delegate Pendergrass:

As a part of The Arc of Southern Maryland, I am delighted to support your consideration of HB 1243 to establish a rural non-emergency medical transportation program in Maryland. I have been involved for three years in the Wheels to Wellness program which coordinates rides for patients who are identified by the Hospital Case Coordinators with our highly trained and specialized drivers at the Arc of Southern Maryland.

**Charles County Services**

3601 Leonardtown Road  
Waldorf, MD 20602  
301.932.7809  
Fax: 301.932.7809

As a non-profit human service provider, our drivers are highly trained in medical transportation. In addition to standard roadway safety training, our drivers must be skilled in wheelchair securement, emergency medical response and must maintain an even and understanding temperament. Unlike Uberhealth, our drivers assist patients door to door. Further, since our drivers are primarily busy in the early morning hours or late afternoon, the Wheels to Wellness program creates a driver demand during prime office hours when our drivers are underutilized. Additionally, our review of program and hospital data indicates a significant positive effect on patients' health as well as a large return on invested dollars.

**St. Mary's County Services**

Breton Market Place  
25470 Point Lookout Road, Unit H  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301.475.5652  
Fax: 301.475.0122

In addition to the above, the proposed legislation partners non-profits such as Arc or the TCLE with the hospital care coordinators, the bill will create industry resiliency by increasing productivity for our drivers.

I look forward to learning about the bill passage. If I can be of any additional help please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Walbert  
Sr. Business Development Advisor

[www.arcsomd.org](http://www.arcsomd.org)

*The Arc of Southern Maryland  
is a 501(c)3 agency.*



All contributions to our  
organization are tax deductible  
to the extent allowed by law.

*For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities*