



**CALVERT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243  
www.calvertcountymd.gov

*Board of Commissioners*  
Christopher J. Gadway  
Earl F. Hance  
Mike Hart  
Kelly D. McConkey  
Steven R. Weems

March 3, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Delegate Shane Pendergrass

RE: HB 1243 – Rural Non-emergency Medical Transportation

Delegate Pendergrass,

It is our sincere pleasure to support passage of HB 1243 Rural Non-emergency Medical Transportation that will establish a Statewide Rural Non-Emergency Health Transportation program.

Since August 2018, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland has sponsored the Wheels to Wellness program that coordinates transportation for patients identified by hospital care coordinators who require transportation help. Some of our findings provide compelling reasons to support the legislation:

- Many of our rural patient healthcare are intrinsically connected to urban areas for specialized care. For these patients, regular transportation is challenging for local destinations and nearly impossible for destinations outside the region.
- Prior to initiating rides, we determined there would be a Return on Investment of at least \$6.30 for each dollar invested.
- The legislation supports temporary transportation for up to 120 days. We believe this time frame will have the largest positive impact for our patients while minimizing expense. Our hospitals determined that Wheels to Wellness made the most significant impact for patients who were enrolled in the program for the first four months. For example, during the FY2020, our hospital partners determined there was a 68% reduction for these patients pre/post costs.
- Programs, such as ours, stabilizes employment for human service transportation providers while ensuring patients maintain good healthcare maintenance regimes. For example, Wheels to Wellness provided income for these agencies during the pandemic.
- The State Health Service Cost Review Commission established penalties and rewards for hospital readmission rates. The transportation services will help hospitals attain lower readmission rates while ensuring patients meet with their physician for follow up office visits.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Steven R. Weems in blue ink.

Steven R. Weems, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Christopher J. Gadway in blue ink.

Christopher J. Gadway

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Kelly D. McConkey in blue ink.

Kelly D. McConkey

cc: Calvert County Senators and Calvert County Delegation