

JOTF JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE

Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

March 9, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Barve,

My name is Ioana Stoica and I'm a policy advocate for the Job Opportunities Task Force, an independent, nonprofit organization that develops and advocates policies and programs to increase the skills, job opportunities, and incomes of low-wage workers and job seekers in Maryland. **JOTF strongly supports House Bill 0009: Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses as a means of expanding transit access to low-income communities, particularly to residents of color.**

Mobility is key in Maryland's regional economy, and the lack of transportation is a significant barrier to employment and to access to critical services such as childcare, healthcare, and grocery stores. And while most Marylanders have some access to a car, research shows that low-income workers, as well as workers of color, are more likely to use public transportation. In Baltimore City, for example, 88% of homeowners have access to a car, but only 57% of renters have access to a car. House Bill 0009 is critical to ensuring equitable transit access for all Maryland residents.

This bill passed in 2022 and was vetoed by Governor Hogan. This Session, the Maryland Transit Caucus chose this bill as one of their top priorities. **We need your help this year with approving the fiscal note and moving the bill to the voting list this week. Can we count on you to please ensure that HB0009 advances to a vote?**

Thank you for your advocacy for all Marylanders,

Ioana Stoica

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