



Written Testimony for HB9/SB19

Testimony Supporting SB0019/HB0009

Senate Finance / House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 1, 2023 / February 2, 2023

Position: SUPPORT

As Walkiria Pool, President of Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF) a minority serving non-profit organization, I am writing to express my support for the Transportation Equity Act, SB0019/HB0009, sponsored by Senator Jill Carter and Delegate Sheila Ruth, which will put equity at the forefront of Maryland transportation planning and ensure equitable access to transportation for all Marylanders.

Increases access to public transportation will benefit all Marylanders, and for minority communities such as Latinos, this legislature has the potential to increase quality of life and health outcomes. The communities we serve report air-quality as a source of concern as many are near auto-centric areas such as busy roads and interstates, which can increase the incidence of illnesses such as asthma, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. An increase in public transport has the potential to reduce the air-pollution harm that front-line communities are exposed to.

Additionally, a robust and affordable transit system makes it so economically disadvantaged communities can cut down on commute times, and have greater access to job opportunities and increase their housing and economic stability. The currently disjoint public transport system makes it hard for low-income families to take advantage of public transport to the fullest extent.

Furthermore, better MTA transit equity reports will make it easier to see the impacts as well as areas of improvement for this major project. Communities need to understand the projects being proposed that will affect their lives and the cost-benefit analysis of these projects.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support the Transportation Equity Act. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Walkiria Pool