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Health and Government  
Operations Committee

House Chair  
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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**Testimony in Support of  
House Bill 472: Transit - Commuter Bus Service - Procurement  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

Madam Chair Peña-Melnyk and esteemed members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 472: Transit - Commuter Bus Service - Procurement**. This bill would require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to consider factors other than price when contracting with commuter bus service providers.

Marylanders who utilize commuter bus services deserve safe and reliable service. The MTA's current practice of awarding contracts based on the lowest price potentially incentivizes bidders to sacrifice quality of service in order to submit low-cost bids. By requiring the MTA to consider qualitative factors (such as records on safety, maintenance, and on time performance), HB 472 would create an environment where commuter bus operators are incentivized to provide both high quality and low-cost services. Ultimately, this bill is about creating more reliable transportation and safer roads.

A competitive sealed proposal process is nothing new in procurement law and is widely used today. The claim that the legislation would decrease competition, fails to recognize that small, family-owned businesses have struggled under the current rules and regulations.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 472**. Thank you.