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February 20, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
The State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 766.

Panhandling has become a real problem in Calvert County. I know it because I see it occurring almost every day along our highways and thoroughfares. I know it because my constituents call me and ask me to do something about it.

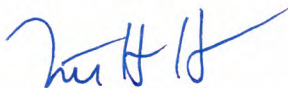
Under current law, there is nothing I can do.

Panhandling is more than a public nuisance. It's dangerous. In Calvert County, panhandlers typically stand in the median strip of major intersections where vehicle traffic is the heaviest. They come out into the roadway to solicit money from vehicle occupants. It's a miracle that someone has not been struck and injured.

House Bill 766 is modeled on laws that currently exist in Carroll, Charles, Harford, and Washington Counties. It is targeted only at "roadside" solicitations; it does not, and will not, impact on legitimate fundraising activities of civic and charitable organizations.

I urge a favorable report on House Bill 766.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Harvey, Jr.
State's Attorney