

CROSSOVER BILL SB0891_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0891 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Transportation - MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements – Study

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of CROSSOVER BILL SB#0891, Transportation - MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements – Study

This bill will create a study group of experts to identify methods to improve the Maryland Transit Administration's ADA MobilityLink paratransit service. My son, a long-term care patient, relies on this service to get to and from doctor appointments and to shop for himself. The service is frequently not available at the times or dates he needs it; he has been late being picked up for transit to and from his doctor's appointments.

Maryland has a world class Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland that is equipped to undertake this study and report their findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly and localities governing structures by July 1, 2025. The bill establishes the amount of and how this study should be funded.

Maryland legislators need good data to make good decisions on this or any other issue. This bill will lead to the acquisition of that data to make that possible. We need to take care of those who are most affected by this paratransit service to make it work for them and for Maryland. Funding this study is a first step to accomplishing that goal.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on CROSSOVER BILL SB0891.