

Subject: Unfavorable SB331

Date: February 6, 2024

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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To: Senate Finance Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland strongly oppose SB331, a bill to study paratransit in Maryland. There are no senior citizens and persons with disabilities on this task force. How can a service such as paratransit be studied without the input of the users? This task force should be reconstructed to include the groups that use the service. Persons with disabilities certainly have something to contribute about paratransit, and their views should be considered. “Nothing about us, without us” is more than a slogan, this phrase is a call to action.

The task force should be reconstructed to include senior citizens and persons with disabilities in a meaningful way, so that their input can be determined and used in the resulting report. If it is not, please vote unfavorable.