

SB0331_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0331 - FAVORABLE
Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0331, Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland

As a resident of Frederick County, where the senior population is over 20% and exceeds the school age population, my cohort faces many challenges as we age. Chief among them, after health care, is transportation to and from doctors and shopping and other activities we wish to participate in. As we age mobility decreases for some of us and having available transit options is no longer a need but a necessity.

We have a transit plus program, but their resources are constrained both by staffing and by the availability of the specialized transport vans needed to serve the critical needs of those people for whom this transport can be lifesaving. This bill is a commonsense idea, that studying all of the factors of the problem can lead to better definitions of its strengths and weaknesses. Absent a clear understanding of what we have, what we need, and paths we can develop to get us to an optimal condition are lacking. The proposed task force will give us that data to make intelligent decisions on the issue and put us on the glidepath to cost-effective and necessary solutions.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0331.