

HB0450_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0450 – FAVORABLE

Maryland Transit Administration - Disability Reduced Fare Program - Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Appropriations 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 HB#0450, Maryland Transit Administration - Disability Reduced Fare Program - Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration has declared “MTA is committed to providing a public transit system that everyone can use. We have made many improvements to make our system more accessible for people with disabilities and seniors.”

My Jewish faith teaches me to respect and care for the elderly and disabled.

Leviticus 19:32 - You shall rise before a venerable person and you shall respect the elderly, and you shall fear your G-d. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:14 - You shall not curse a deaf person. You shall not place a stumbling block before a blind person, and you shall fear your G-d. I am the Lord.

These verses very clearly give commands that people with disabilities and the elderly should not be ill-treated. One should fear the Lord who watches what one does with these people. It calls upon us to respect them and treat them with kindness.

The intent of this bill is to simplify the process for those affected people. This bill will require the Maryland Transit Administration to automatically renew the Disability Reduced Fare Program certification of an enrollee who is permanently disabled. It lessens the burden of forcing a reapplication process on people who fit into these categories.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0450.