



Live the life you want.

From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to vote yes on HB450, a bill that will permit the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to automatically renew the Disability Reduced Fare Program certification for people with permanent disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits requiring excessive medical documentation to provide proof of disability. To that end, requiring updated medical documentation for permanent disabilities is inconsistent with the ADA, costly, administratively burdensome to both the individual and MTA, and frankly unnecessary.

People who are blind, low vision, and deaf blind have permanent disabilities. Many of them do not have ophthalmologists because permanent blindness does not necessarily require continuing medical care. This bill will save such individuals valuable time and money because they will not have to go to the doctor, go in for an interview, etc. Of equal importance, this bill is a cost savings bill because the MTA will not have to process medical certifications for such individuals, remove people from the roles for insufficient or absent medical documentation, and then later reinstate them.

Please vote in favor of this bill because it will save both time and money for the individual and the state of Maryland. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.