



February 25, 2025

Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB450 – Maryland Transit Administration – Disability Reduced Fare Program – Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals – Support

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, we write in support of ***HB450 - Disability Reduced Fare Program – Renewal for Permanently Disabled Individuals.***

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region serves over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families in Anne Arundel County and Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Our mission is to support people with IDD to live the lives they choose by creating opportunities, promoting respect and equity, and providing access to services.

The Disability Reduced Fare Program provides people with disabilities, senior citizens, and Medicare cardholders with reduced fares on Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) public transit services. Accessible and affordable transportation is essential for people with disabilities as it enables them to access employment, education, healthcare, and social opportunities. Many people with disabilities rely on public transit as their primary means of transportation, as they may not drive or have access to private vehicles. Affordable fares help reduce financial burdens, support independent living, and foster greater inclusion within their communities.

Currently, to re-enroll, a person must resubmit their application with additional signatures from a physician or healthcare professional and either mail or fax the application to the MTA office. The entire process can take up to a month to complete. HB450 will require the MTA to automatically renew the certification of enrollees who are permanently disabled, eliminating unnecessary barriers and preventing lapses in access to these essential transit services.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to issue a favorable report on H450.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Rondeau
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Rondeau', is placed over the typed name and title.

thearcCCR.org

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