

Subject: Favorable HB467 Metro Funding Modification Act of 2025

Date: February 25, 2025

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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To: House Appropriations Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Appropriations Committee to vote yes on HB467, the Metro Funding Modification Act of 2025. This bill will make sure that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has its necessary funding for its capital expenses, \$167,000,000. Allotting this money will not only benefit the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA), but will more importantly guarantee safety for the customers that use WMATA by ensuring that the equipment is kept to a high standard.

One of the core beliefs of the National Federation of the Blind and the Maryland Chapter is the full integration of the blind into society. One of the best means to reach this goal is to have public transit and paratransit that is reliable and prompt, which this funding will help provide. Blind people depend on both para- and public transit for employment, medical appointments, religious services, shopping, and attending social activities. These methods of transportation also provide assistance to the elderly and can alleviate loneliness, one of the great problems in today's society.

Please vote yes on HB467.