

**Written Testimony Submitted to the  
Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB 1144  
State Public Transit Service and Stations – Exclusion for Assault and Bodily Injury  
February 20, 2025  
SUPPORT**

As a Transit Supervisor who has been a victim of this abuse and witnessed firsthand the effects of allowing persons involved in assaulting Bus Operators and other transit workers with no consequences, it truly saddens me. The Operators who provide exceptional services become fearful or filled with anxiety. It's a horrible feeling to come to work and not feel safe. Knowing the person who assaulted you is still out there, existing as though nothing has happened. It also saddens me that after an incident and Police are called with the suspect there and they do ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! Their reasoning, "I didn't witness it." The situation of Transit Worker assaults should be treated as domestic violence. When Officers respond to those, they normally make an arrest. They were not there to witness the act of violence, but the scene let them know an act of violence occurred. We have had more than our fair share of Officers responding and doing nothing even with the abuser still on location. Which only leaves our Transit Workers to continue to feel unsafe. It's beyond disheartening.

Once nothing happens, there is no consequence for their action, they just board the next bus or rail service, go on about their day as though nothing happened, to commit the same act. They have a new victim. This needs to be addressed. This bill would give the transit workers some sense of security.

I am requesting a FAVORABLE vote on this bill.

Shamika Turner, Member  
MECA Council 1014 – Supervisors Unlimited for  
Collective Bargaining