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February 15, 2025

Favorable; HB1144 - State Public Transit Service and Stations - Exclusion for Assault and Bodily Injury.

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
RANDY MARTZ

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
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BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHN WALKER

Local 1949
JACOB STROMAN

To the Honorable Mark Korman, Chair; Regina Boyce, Vice Chair and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

My name is Andrea Wiegel, I am a Passenger Train Conductor with over 20 years of service working for both Amtrak and MARC. I am expressing my support for **HB1144**.

While working on a Marc train from Washington DC to Baltimore Penn station, a passenger boarded without a ticket and refused to pay. The Conductor put that passenger off at Halethorpe station. I was flagging the platform, a practice where we hang on the side of our slowly moving train as it is departing the station, observing the station's platform, ensuring that the train is not dragging any people down the platform.

It was during this time that I was attacked by the removed passenger, whom I didn't have any previous interactions with. The passenger decided he wanted to get back on the train by bulldozing through me.

When that didn't work, he tried to pull me off a moving train. He grabbed ahold of my sweater trying to pull me. With one hand, I held hold onto the handle rail, with the other trying to get him to release me. The train was brought to a stop, and the police were called.

I never received the passenger's name or any information about what happened to him after the attack. I have not worked on a MARC since. For all I know, he could still be riding the train to this day. The attack left me out of work for over a year with left shoulder, lower back and leg injuries.

This bill would give us all a piece of mind when coming to do our jobs, knowing that a person who assaults another will be held accountable. We wouldn't fear running into the person again on the train, sometimes the same day. A person who assaults another person should not be allowed to ride a train again.

To this day I still fear running into my attacker. Something no human being should have to endure for performing service for the State of Maryland. Thank you for your time, I urge for a FAVORABLE Report on **HB1144**.

Andrea Wiegel
Conductor
Member, SMART-TD 1470