



**Testimony on HB 386  
Metro Funding Act of 2026  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**Date: March 31, 2026**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is a statewide evidence-based organization of over 800 physicians and other health professionals and supporters that addresses these existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, and toxic chemicals, as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, racial and social justice.

**CPSR strongly supports HB 386**, which ensures that critical tri-state capital funding for WMATA is adjusted for inflation and scaled to meet state-of-good repair needs. The additional annual funding will also enable timely modernization of outdated rail infrastructure.

There are many reasons to support Metrobus and Metrorail, and I am sure that others will address them. On behalf of CPSR I would like to emphasize the important effect of reliable, efficient, and affordable public transit when it comes to the environment.

A robust transit system allows citizens to leave the car behind, which results in decreased local pollution and decreased greenhouse gas emissions. That is not insignificant. We face very terrible climate developments, and our society is just not taking it seriously. To allow our transit system to degrade because of a failure to maintain appropriate funding would be sad and foolish because of local impacts, but it would also contribute to destabilization around the world. That may sound exaggerated, but it is real. What we do in our own state does indeed have worldwide effects. In addition, it sets a standard that influences decisions made by other cities and states. This is all part of changing from a car-centric culture to a human-centric culture.

Our motto at CPSR, and a principle of public health, is **WE MUST PREVENT WHAT WE CANNOT CURE**. That is why we support the Transit and Climate Alignment Act and urge you to give a **favorable report on HB 386**.

Terrence T. Fitzgerald, MD