

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689



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Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

HB148

February 10th, 2026

TO: The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Benjamin Lynn, ATU Local 689 Press and Communications Associate

Chair Valderrama and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 148. ATU Local 689 supports House Bill 148 and urges the committee to favorably report the bill which would curb the use of surveillance-based pricing and wage setting by app based transportation companies.

ATU Local 689 represents more than 15,000 transit workers and retirees throughout the Washington DC Metro Area performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, DASH, and MTA Commuter Bus among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers. We became an engine for the middle-class of this region. The fundamental focus of our membership in their day-to-day responsibilities is to move people from Point A to Point B.

The current use of surveillance-based pricing is predatory, invasive, and because of the lack of strict regulations and oversight, potentially discriminatory. App based transportation companies such as Uber or Lyft also rely on surveillance-based wage setting which results in drivers earning less than their peers for doing the same work simply because of where they are performing work or different factors. Unions including Local 689 firmly believe in fair wages for a fair day's work, and the surveillance-based wages do not live up to that fundamental fairness. Gig-drivers are hardworking and dedicated workers who deserve fair compensation for their work. They deserve to have certainty and fairness – not an algorithm that fluctuates wages on any given day or hour.

ATU Local 689 appreciates the bill's sponsor, Delegate Vogel, for championing this bill to address an important issue that is harmful to consumers and workers. We urge the members of the House Economic Committee to favorably report House Bill 148.