



NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF THE BLIND  
MARYLAND

*Live the life you want.*

From: Ronza Othman, President  
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To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland respectfully request the House Environment and Transportation Committee give a favorable report to HB1113.

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland is the State's oldest and largest civil rights organization of blind, low vision, and deaf-blind individuals. We represent blind Marylanders across the State who rely heavily on public transportation for employment, education, medical care, and full participation in community life.

For blind pedestrians and transit riders, bus stops are not merely conveniences — they are essential access points to independence.

Unfortunately, bus stops are frequently obstructed by illegally parked vehicles. When vehicles block bus stops or bus zones, the consequences are not minor inconveniences. They create significant safety hazards and accessibility barriers, particularly for blind and disabled riders.

When a bus cannot pull fully to the curb because a vehicle is blocking the stop:

- The bus may stop in the travel lane.
- Operators may be unable to deploy ramps safely.
- Riders may be forced to step into active traffic.
- Blind riders may struggle to locate the bus door safely and independently.

- Individuals with mobility devices may be unable to board at all.

For a blind rider, consistency and predictability are critical. We rely on fixed environmental cues — curb lines, tactile surfaces, and the known location of bus doors. When a bus must stop several feet away from its designated location, that predictability disappears. What might appear to be a small obstruction can create a dangerous and disorienting situation.

HB1113 provides a practical enforcement mechanism by allowing for monitoring and citation of vehicles that block bus stops. This legislation is not punitive for its own sake. Rather, it is about ensuring that public infrastructure remains usable and safe for the public — including people with disabilities.

Public transportation systems are designed to be accessible. But accessibility is only meaningful if the physical access point — the bus stop — remains clear.

Federal and state disability laws recognize that equal access to transportation is a civil right. When bus stops are obstructed and enforcement is inconsistent, that right is undermined in practice.

HB1113 will:

- Improve safety for riders and bus operators.
- Promote consistent enforcement.
- Increase compliance with existing parking restrictions.
- Help ensure that buses can properly align with the curb and deploy accessibility equipment safely.
- Support independence for blind and disabled Marylanders.

This legislation advances basic public safety, accessibility, and common-sense compliance with existing law. It recognizes that a bus stop must function as intended in order for our transportation system to serve all Marylanders.

On behalf of blind residents across the State who rely on accessible and predictable transit, we respectfully request a favorable report on HB1113. For questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.

**National Federation of the Blind of Maryland**

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