

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and  
Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Christina M. Yuan, MD offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Christina M. Yuan. I am a retired physician and I live in Maryland. I am strongly in favor of the proposed bill. During 2025 there has been a huge increase in deportation flights, and flight crew have reported alarming details about on-board conditions. Flight attendants have reported that planes were refueled with restrained detainees still on board. This is extremely dangerous. In the event of a fire, passengers must be able to be evacuated from an airplane within 90 seconds (per FAA regulation), and this would be impossible for detainees who are shackled or otherwise restrained. The Aviation Health and Safety Act prohibits restrained passengers from remaining on-board during refueling.

The Act also provides for detainee safety during medical emergencies, as well as ensuring that first responders and medical/hospital personnel have the necessary information to render effective medical care. It requires that everyone being transported have medical forms indicating allergies, medical conditions, and medications being taken. Minors must be documented as such, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied by parents. These are basic, sensible requirements when overseeing the transportation of a large group of people, detainees or not. The fixed base operator or aviation service company are responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and must be required to document that they are in compliance.

I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

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