

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 639, Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026

KATHY SHULMAN, MEMBER OF INDIVISIBLE BALTIMORE CITY

Indivisible Baltimore is a unified coalition of diverse Baltimore residents who aim to connect, build, and support our community to uphold democracy, justice, and human dignity. We hold local, state and national leaders accountable, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening democratic participation. Through empathy, education, and nonviolent resistance, we build bridges across political and social divides—because real change happens when we listen, learn, and act together. To date, we represent more than 2300 Baltimore City residents.

We support this legislation as it helps our state protect our immigrant neighbors and those immigrants across the country who are unjustly and illegally detained and deported by the Department of Homeland Security.

The highlights of the legislation speak for themselves and include:

“Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in the state are operated in manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on any of these flights. The FAA has the authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport-based companies who provide the refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

This bill will:

- ✓ Require that flights may not be refueled with individuals in any kind of restraint on board. When individuals in restraints are removed so the airplane can be refueled, they must be in a climate-controlled enclosure and must have access to restrooms and water.
- ✓ Require that flight crews shall distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers. The standard form will be developed through MAA regs. The form will ask for any current medical conditions, allergies, and ask for information about medication.
- ✓ Require that these forms must be kept on board and provided to emergency responders and/or Maryland hospitals in a medical emergency. The fixed base operator or aviation service. company will note the compliance in their logs.

✓ Require documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information if parents are not also on board. This would be necessary should there be a medical emergency that requires care for this minor in the state of Maryland.

✓ Require attorney contact information and pending legal proceedings for all passengers traveling in restraints. This is required because if a person needs medical care, their attorney.

✓ The fixed base operator or aviation service company will be responsible for monthly monitoring reports to the MAA, which will ensure compliance and transparency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shulman,

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