

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:

I am offering favorable testimony in support of HB639 Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).

Maryland first responders respond to medical emergencies at Maryland airports, and individuals experiencing medical emergencies are treated at nearby hospitals. It is critical that emergency responders and Maryland hospitals have sufficient information to respond to these emergencies.

Maryland airports have experienced an increased number of flights through the airport with individuals in restraints. The FAA's current evacuation standards mandate that all passengers must be capable of evacuating within 90 seconds. This is challenging under any circumstances, but impossible if individuals are in restraints.

Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in our state are operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of the passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on one of these flights. The FAA has 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.

As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith teaches me that all people have inherent worth and dignity. I am supporting this bill it provides passengers and crew the health and safety they deserve under any circumstance.

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

Sincerely,
Karen Murphy-Keddell
Howard County Resident
21046