

**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 Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Jodi Beder offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

I have been a resident of Maryland since 2003 (District 47A, represented by Senator Augustine and Delegates Fennell and Ivey), a book editor, musician, and concerned citizen for my entire adult life. I vote in every election.

As a taxpayer and a citizen, I feel that everything the state does, it does in my name. This includes everything the state chooses to regulate, or chooses to ignore.

The safety conditions on airplanes that have been purposed or repurposed to transport incarcerated people, especially recently in the case of people swept as “illegals,” violates the Eighth Amendment, and is inhumane and immoral. Our legislature has the power and obligation to take a stand to keep this from happening within our state. I applaud Delegate Charkoudian for their sponsorship of this bill.

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

Jodi Beder, Mt Rainier, MD 20712