



DATE: February 5, 2026      COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation  
BILL NO: House Bill 58  
BILL TITLE: Transportation – Paratransit Services – Interjurisdictional Routes  
POSITION: Support

Kennedy Krieger Institute supports House Bill 58 – Paratransit Service – Interjurisdictional Routes

**Bill Summary:**

House Bill 58 requires counties to identify interjurisdictional paratransit service routes between facilities when applying for funding under the Secretary of Transportation.

**Background:**

Kennedy Krieger provides specialized services to patients nationally and internationally. Kennedy Krieger Institute is dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with developmental, behavioral, cognitive and physical challenges. Kennedy Krieger’s services include inpatient, outpatient, school-based and community-based programs.

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger is proud to be Maryland’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

MCDD links the community to vital services, research and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination.

**Rationale:**

Transportation continues to be a significant barrier for individuals with disabilities due to inaccessible public transit options, limited cross-county transportation, the financial burden associated with travel, and the inconsistency and unreliability of scheduled paratransit services.

Many individuals who rely on paratransit depend on it to access essential healthcare services, including medical specialists, hospital-based care, rehabilitation therapies, and behavioral health treatment. While Kennedy Krieger operates at multiple locations throughout Maryland, patients and their families are often required to travel substantial distances to receive our specialized services. For example, a patient living on the Eastern Shore may need to travel to Baltimore for clinical care that is not available locally. Without a reliable, affordable, and coordinated transportation option, families may be forced to forgo these critical services altogether due to the extraordinary logistical, financial, and physical burden of travel.

Anecdotal evidence from patients and families consistently demonstrates the impact of limited cross-county public transportation. Missed or delayed appointments are common, not due to lack of need or willingness to participate in care, but because transportation options do not align with real-world travel demands. These gaps in access can lead to disruptions in treatment, poorer health outcomes, and ultimately higher long-term costs for healthcare systems and public programs. Addressing cross-jurisdictional transportation barriers is essential to ensuring equitable access to care and improving outcomes for individuals with disabilities and their families.

**Kennedy Krieger requests a favorable report on House Bill 58.**