

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)
Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
February 17, 2026**

Chair Marc Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee: My name is Judy Karasik. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland from 2001 to the present and previously resided in Chevy Chase from 1958 to 1971. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration.

I write in support of HB639, the Aviation Health & Safety Act.

I am deeply concerned about many aspects of the Trump administration's immigration policies. I am gratified that this body is considering several proposals that would help protect our neighbors in Maryland. **HB639** is an important piece of this overall legislative fabric.

HB639 protects the health and safety of detainees on ICE flights originating from or passing through Thurgood Marshall International airport (BWI) by limiting the use of restraints and requiring the gathering and collecting of vital information. Detainee flights increased dramatically in 2025 and are likely to continue rising.

The legislation usefully includes requirements that:

Flight crews distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers on flights with detainees aboard, including current medical conditions, allergies and medications. Flight crews would keep the forms on board and provide them to emergency responders and/or hospitals in any medical emergency.

Flight crews keep documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information if their parents are not with them, required by Maryland law for care of the minor in a medical emergency.

Flight crews gather and maintain attorney contact information for all passengers traveling in restraints so that their attorney can be contacted if the passenger requires medical care, as well as **information about any pending legal proceedings.**

Flight crews keep copies of these forms in the airplane and, **in the case of an emergency, share the information with emergency responders or hospitals in the state.**

Flight providers check to ensure that the forms have been completed and are stowed safely on the aircraft.

Flight providers provide copies of the forms to the Administration monthly.

Refueling does not occur if passengers are under any kind of restraint.

Thank you for your consideration.