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February 24, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
The Honorable Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – HB 829: Public Utilities – For-Hire Drivers and Transportation Network Operators – Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Training and Liability

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

Please accept this letter as a formal expression of support for HB 829 with the attached proposed amendments. I respectfully request the Committee's indulgence in accepting these materials for your consideration during your deliberations.

Throughout the legislative process, I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with the bill sponsors, Delegate Ebersole. The Delegate's commitment to addressing human trafficking within Maryland's transportation sector is commendable. We believe that HB 829, which mandates human trafficking awareness training for for-hire drivers and transportation network operators while providing critical liability protections for those reporting suspected incidents in good faith, is a vital step forward for public safety.

To ensure the bill achieves its intended goals while maintaining operational clarity for both the Public Service Commission and operators, we have developed specific redlines (attached) that reflect our "Favorable with Amendments" position. These amendments focus on the following key areas:

- Training Flexibility (§ 10–104.2): Ensuring that operators can utilize a variety of programs, including those developed by transportation network companies in consultation with nationally-recognized experts, to meet the new documentation requirements.
- Compliance Timelines (§ 10–404): Establishing a practical 60-day window for operators to complete training after their first trip, and providing a grace period for existing licensees who have completed compliant training after June 2025.

We remain eager to work with the Committee and the sponsors to finalize a version of this bill that serves the best interests of Marylanders before the proposed October 1, 2026, effective date.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this late submission.

Sincerely,

LáVita Gardner
Manager, Public Policy
Uber