

**RE: HB 639 – AVIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT
For Hearing on Feb 19, 2026**

Thank you, Delegate Charkoudian, for sponsoring this legislation. We should all be concerned about the safety of all Marylanders. While we see how ICE and CBP agents murder and injure innocent people, while we watch how they engage pursue and detain innocent people without concern for their physical and mental well-being (whether presumed innocent when accused but not yet found guilty of a crime, or clearly innocent of any criminal accusations whatsoever), we must take all possible actions to ensure the safety and health of our those who reside in, or come to visit, Maryland. We are a community that cares; we are a community that must translate our values into laws, and our laws into enforced policies.

I have traveled on many flights, both domestic and international. For my international development work, I have seen (and flown on) flights that did not meet FAA standards. When engaged in work for the US Agency for International Development that related to Democracy *and Governance*, I have seen governments that do not govern effectively: governments that lack either the will or the capacity to protect the average individuals and families in their countries.

That is not who WE are. We are a nation of laws. We are a nation of government that protects its own. But if our Federal Aviation Agency will not protect people, then our states must step up, and fill that void. This bill, to ensure that detained individuals will be safe, is an important directive to our Maryland Aviation Administration. It not only demonstrates our commitment to the health and safety of all passengers, but it also ensures that airlines with the authorization to use the Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport, adhere to standards that respect lives and protect ALL passengers.

I urge the delegates on the Environment and Transportation Committee to report this bill out favorably. BUT, I also ask that it be amended to be Emergency legislation. There must be some real urgency to put the mechanisms in place as quickly as possible – before ICE/CBP ramp up their efforts to detain and transport people in Maryland.

Thank you,

Marcia Greenberg
St Mary's County