

## **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 Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

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

My name is Elizabeth and I live in Baltimore. I am very favorable to the proposed bill HB639. With the increase of individuals detained in 2025, there was a significant increase in their transport via airways. Concurrent with this increase were startling reports of conditions on board.

Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each is taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB639.

Elizabeth Scherr, 21224