



TESTIMONY FOR HB0639

Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0639 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

People are being disappeared in this country. People who have done nothing wrong. Children. The horrors that we are seeing are not consistent with our history, our society, or the values that we grew up with. Whatever we can do to help mitigate the harm that is happening has become an overriding concern for our members.

This bill is aimed at an aspect of the mass arrest and deportation scheme that we have not paid much attention to – what is happening on the flights where people are moved all over the country and out of the country in restraints and without access to medical care, attorneys, or much in the way of compassion. What we are seeing is that federal agents treat all people they arrest as hardened criminals.

This bill, if enacted, would require the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) to insert itself into the process of collecting information about people who are on these deportation flights when they come in to refuel in Maryland. It would specifically require –

- that flights may not be refueled with individuals in any kind of restraint on board. When individuals in restraints are removed so the airplane can be refueled, they must be in a climate-controlled enclosure and must have access to restrooms and water.
- that flight crews shall distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers. The standard form will be developed through MAA regs. The form will ask for any current medical conditions, allergies, and ask for information about medication.
- that the forms must be kept on board and provided to emergency responders and/or Maryland hospitals in a medical emergency. The fixed base operator or aviation service company will note the compliance in their logs.

- documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information if parents are not also on board. This would be necessary should there be a medical emergency that requires care for this minor in the state of Maryland.
- attorney contact information and pending legal proceedings for all passengers traveling in restraints. This is required because if a person needs medical care, their attorney may need to be contacted.
- that the fixed base operator or aviation service company working with the flight will be responsible for monthly monitoring reports to the MAA, which will ensure compliance and transparency.

Our members are very appreciative of the concern that legislators have shown for the people trapped in this horror show and the thoughtfulness in trying to provide them with whatever help we can legally provide.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.