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TESTIMONY FOR HB0639
Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)
Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of HB0639** on behalf of Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD). IBBMD is a group of several hundred grassroots activists in Bowie and surrounding areas in Prince George's County, working to bring justice, equality, and people-centric legislation to Maryland.

In 2025, there was an increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters stating that planes were refueled with detainees (aka human beings) still on board, an extremely dangerous practice. Because individuals were shackled, it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights. In fact, there appears to be very little oversight in general.

HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act, would require basic safety requirements for transporting large groups of people. Everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies, medical conditions, and a list of medications they are taking. If minors are transported, their presence must be publicly documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. Attorney information for any passenger transported in shackles would be required.

Although it seems absurd to have to legislate such basic human requirements, the evidence is that in the absence of specific legislation and consequences for inhumane behavior, DHS and its associated agencies continue to commit human rights abuses. For these reasons, IBBMD urges that you **support HB0639** and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.