

HB0639 - SUPPORT
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HB0639– Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

House Environment and Transportation Committee
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Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is William Mascioli and I have lived in Silver Spring for 40 years. I strongly urge a favorable report on HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act. I am—to say the least—deeply concerned about many aspects of the Trump administration’s immigration policies. I am gratified that this body is considering several proposals that would help protect our neighbors in Maryland. HB0639 is an important strand in this overall legislative fabric.

The Aviation Health and Safety Act protects the health and safety of detainees on ICE flights originating from or passing through Thurgood Marshall International airport (BWI) by limiting the use of restraints and requiring the gathering and collecting of vital information. These flights increased dramatically in 2025 and are likely to continue rising.

FAA evacuation standards require that all passengers be able to evacuate any aircraft within 90 seconds. Anyone who has been on a plane knows this to be extremely difficult under normal circumstances. Imagine unloading a plane if the passengers are in shackles. Under HB0639, flights would be prohibited from refueling at our airport if their passengers are under any kind of restraint.

In addition, Maryland first responders and the hospitals they work with cannot adequately perform their life-saving services without crucial information. HB0639 would require flight crews to distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers on flights with detainees aboard. These forms would ask for current medical conditions, allergies and medications. Flight crews would keep the forms on board and provide them to emergency responders and/or hospitals in any medical emergency.

Flight crews would also need to keep documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information if their parents are not with them. This is required by Maryland law for care of the minor in a medical emergency.

In addition, the bill would require flight crews to gather and maintain attorney contact information for all passengers traveling in restraints so that their attorney can be contacted if the passenger requires medical care. It is becoming clearer every day that ICE’s dragnet approach is detaining all sorts of people, most of whom are not charged, much less convicted, of violent crimes, and most of whom

have not committed any crime at all. No matter: keeping people in restraints during an inherently volatile procedure is tantamount to writing them off as disposable. Please, not in Maryland!

Accordingly, I urge a favorable report on HB0639 and thank you for your consideration.