

HB0018_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0018 – FAVORABLE

Transportation Network Companies - Transportation Network Operators - Minimum Payments for Passenger Trips

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0018, Transportation Network Companies - Transportation Network Operators - Minimum Payments for Passenger Trips

This is a worker protection bill that will eliminate the ways in which transportation network companies harm their workers. An AI summary explains what is happening: ¹

Transportation network companies (TNCs) like [Uber](#) and Lyft often structure their business models to maximize flexibility and reduce costs, which can result in significant financial and legal disadvantages for their independent contractors (drivers). TNCs "stiff" contractors by misclassifying them to avoid labor regulations, transferring operational risks, and using algorithms to dictate pay, often leading to lower net earnings.

The National Employment Law Project discusses *Uber State Interference: How Transportation Network Companies Buy, Bully, and Bamboozle Their Way To Deregulation* ² which clearly defines the problems existing with these companies. This bill is Maryland declaring that workers will not and cannot be treated in such a cavalier manner.

The bill accomplishes this purpose by setting monetary guidelines that will require a transportation network company to pay operators, after July 1, 2026, and for any passenger trip originating in the State, \$1.66 per mile and \$0.40 per minute, an additional \$1.18 per mile for an operator using a wheelchair accessible vehicle, at least \$5.00 for any passenger trip, and at least 80% of any cancellation fee charged by a transportation network company; and adjusting the minimum amount paid per mile and per minute by inflation each year.

Maryland can and should make this statement in favor of worker rights.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0018.

¹ Google Search: "How do transportation network companies stiff their contractors"

² <https://www.nelp.org/app/uploads/2018/01/Uber-State-Interference-How-Transportation-Network-Companies-Buy-Bully-Bamboozle-Their-Way-to-Deregulation.pdf>