



# Memorandum In Support of HB 1200

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House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 26, 2026

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nonprofit nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN empowers cancer patients, survivors, their families and other experts on the disease, amplifying their voices and public policy matters that are relevant to the cancer community at all levels of government. We mobilize our powerful grassroots network of cancer advocacy volunteers to bring awareness to lawmakers like yourself on cancer issues that matter to your constituents.

This year it is estimated that 38,160 Marylanders will hear the chilling phrase “you have cancer.” In addition, it is sadly estimated that 11,280 Marylanders will fall victim to this deadly disease.

Maryland is blessed to have some of the best cancer centers in the world, including:

- University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center
- Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
- Maryland Proton Treatment Center

Not everyone lives close by to one of these centers, and Marylanders from the western mountains or the eastern shore have to travel hours to get treatment, having to take time off from work. It is this circumstance that led, in part, to the American Cancer Society building Hope Lodge in Baltimore. Cancer patients undergoing treatment far away from home can have a place to stay, eat, and have community.

But they still have to travel, and transportation obstacles are the number one barrier for cancer patients to receiving treatment. In 2024 the American Cancer Society’s “Road to Recovery” program provided almost 2,000 rides in the Maryland and DC areas. Transportation challenges can lead to missed appointments, and lack of transportation options has been shown to lead to higher morbidity rates and earlier deaths.

House Bill 1200 is a small but important step to acknowledge the physical, emotional, and financial plight of cancer patients. Tolls to and from appointments can add up to a financial burden. Having one less thing to worry about is one step closer toward recovery.

ACS CAN thanks the sponsor for bringing this bill forward and the committee for the opportunity to testify. We ask for a favorable report of House Bill 1200.