

# **HB0639 - Aviation Health and Safety Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Lewis

Position: FAV

Andrew Lewis  
685 Winding Stream Way, Odenton Maryland, 21113  
District 21

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

2/19/2026

TO: Chair Marc Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Andrew Lewis

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Andrew, I live in Odenton, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act.

If enacted, this act would ensure a number of measures committed to transparency and the importance of human safety. Requiring collected records about who is on board and where they are being sent is standard passenger documentation, and should be even more important when transporting ANYONE against their will, yet this behavior is something the current administration's DOJ has been negligent about. There should be a paper trail for any detainee being transported in any form. When the Government, be it County, Federal, or State, takes a person into custody, they take on the responsibility for that person's well being. Being unable to locate, or hiding information on the whereabouts of detainees is a horrible shirking of that duty.

I urge you to support HB0639 and help ensure that all flights out of Maryland maintain the dignity and safety of anyone on board a flight out, while keeping meaningful records about where those on board are headed.

# **HB0639 - Aviation H & S.pdf**

Uploaded by: Anne Manuel

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Chair Marc Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee**

February 19, 2026

Chair Korman and members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee: My name is Anne Manuel. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for more than 40 years. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration. I am writing to **support** SB0505, the Aviation Health & Safety Act.

I am 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. SB0505 is an important piece of this overall legislative fabric.

SB0505 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 SB0505, 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. SB0505 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Manuel  
2021 Luzerne Ave  
Silver Spring, MD. 20910  
[nightsky11@verizon.net](mailto:nightsky11@verizon.net)  
301-742-4121

# **HB0639 - Aviation Health and Safety Act.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ayla Hurley

Position: FAV

Ayla Hurley  
6385 Windharp Way  
Columbia, MD  
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

2/19/2026

TO: Chair Marc Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act.

If enacted, this act would ensure a number of measures committed to transparency and the importance of human safety. Requiring collected records about who is on board and where they are being sent is standard passenger documentation, and should be even more important when transporting supposedly “violent criminals;” yet this is something the current administration’s DOJ has been negligent about. There should be a paper trail for any detainee on a flight. Additionally, the requirement to remove certain restraints while refueling will allow for escape in the event of a dangerous accident. Even supposed criminals deserve safety in the event of an accident. For the many that we know are innocent of any crime, just as much reason to document where they are going, in the hopes of returning them back home to the US.

I urge you to support HB0639 and help ensure that all flights out of Maryland maintain the dignity and safety of anyone on board a flight out, while keeping meaningful records about where those folks are headed.

# **Testimony HB0639 Transportation - Aviation - Passe**

Uploaded by: Carolyn Matthews

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on House Bill – Favorable HB0639 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Dear members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

My name is Carolyn Matthews, and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **HB 0639 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety**.

As the federal government is not adequately protecting the safety and rights of all people, the State of Maryland must step up to do so wherever we have the authority. **HB 0639** is one of the many bills before the legislature that will establish protections for all people, regardless of citizenship status.

I support **HB 0639** because there can be no confusion about the safety rules for detained persons on flights. Transgressions such as refueling airplanes with detainees on board, lack of documentation about detainee health records, and lack of information about the guardians of any minors on board are short cuts that endanger the people on these flights.

In addition, Maryland should ensure that airlines who transport detainees from our airports will only do so if the legal warrant or court order has been established.

I respectfully urge the committee to issue a **favorable report** on **HB 0639**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



**HB 639 transportation etc.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cathy Stogel

Position: FAV

Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB 639 Transportation-Aviation- Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Postition: Favorable

Submitted by: Cathy Stogel  
2/17/26

Dear Committee members,

Sadly in today's world we need legislation to protect people, in federal detention operations, from inhumane treatment. The goal of deportation should be to remove people who should not be here, not to subject them to cruel, degrading, and life threatening treatment. What is achieved by this violence and why should we allow it?

This act would create oversight, transparency and safety standards for detention flights. We are all aware of the hundreds of reports indicating verbal and physical abuse by personnel on ICE flights. Available reports document the deaths of 52 people during or immediately following transport while in ICE custody between 2017 and 2021 (more recent information is not available).

We have reached a point where, due to both public and investor pressure, major companies are distancing themselves from aiding or enabling ICE. If Maryland wants to continue to attract new businesses it would be good to be viewed as a state that does not support the cruel and brutal treatment of others.

Please pass a favorable report of HB 639.

Thank you so much,

Cathy Stogel  
2581 Liter Dr.  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

# **HB0639\_Aviation\_Health\_and\_Safety\_Act\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## 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.

# **HB639 FAV Brocht.pdf**

Uploaded by: Chauna Brocht

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable

HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 19, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

I am offering favorable testimony in support of HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act

My name is Chauna Brocht and I live in 43A. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. 2025 saw a huge increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled will detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB639.

Sincerely,

Chauna Brocht

District 43A

Baltimore, MD 21218

# **Testimony HB639 Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christina Yuan

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and  
Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Christina M. Yuan, MD offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Christina M. Yuan. I am a retired physician and I live in Maryland. I am strongly in favor of the proposed bill. During 2025 there has been a huge increase in deportation flights, and flight crew have reported alarming details about on-board conditions. Flight attendants have reported that planes were refueled with restrained detainees still on board. This is extremely dangerous. In the event of a fire, passengers must be able to be evacuated from an airplane within 90 seconds (per FAA regulation), and this would be impossible for detainees who are shackled or otherwise restrained. The Aviation Health and Safety Act prohibits restrained passengers from remaining on-board during refueling.

The Act also provides for detainee safety during medical emergencies, as well as ensuring that first responders and medical/hospital personnel have the necessary information to render effective medical care. It requires that everyone being transported have medical forms indicating allergies, medical conditions, and medications being taken. Minors must be documented as such, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied by parents. These are basic, sensible requirements when overseeing the transportation of a large group of people, detainees or not. The fixed base operator or aviation service company are responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and must be required to document that they are in compliance.

I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Christina M. Yuan, MD  
Zip code: 20708

**Test HB 639 MD.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cynthia Sokolow

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

**HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow, offer favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

Restraining people while flying detainees is a concern. The FAA standards mandate that aircraft with more than 44 seats must be capable of a full emergency evacuation within 90 seconds. Individuals who are restrained may not be capable of swiftly and safely evacuating. Flight attendants, responsible for all travelers' safety are putting passengers and crew at risk.

I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 639**.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sokolow

21042

# **Testimony HB639 – Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Eileen Singleton

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**  
**HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

I offer favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

This bill focuses on the health and safety of people who are detained and being transported in/through Maryland, and this bill also supports flight crews in doing their primary job to keep passengers safe. In Maryland, we care about the well-being of all people; and we need to step up now more than ever, when the federal government is showing blatant disregard for the safety of so many people.

I am Jewish and grew up learning about the Holocaust. I never thought that could be my country, but we're moving toward that end stage. And I implore you to pass this legislation to take a necessary step to address the horror of what is happening in our state and in our country.

In closing, I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB639**.

Eileen Singleton  
Ellicott City 21042

# **HB639-Zeller-Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Eileen Zeller

Position: FAV

**HB639:**  
**Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety**  
**(Aviation Health and Safety Act)**  
**House Environment and Transportation**  
**February 19, 2026**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Zeller. I live in Clarksville, MD (District 9A).

I support HB639 because Maryland must ensure that any flight passing through or refueling in the state operates in a way that protects the health and safety of passengers and crew, and that the state is prepared to respond to medical emergencies on those flights.

While the Federal Aviation Administration has authority over many aspects of air travel at Maryland airports, the state retains authority over fixed base operators and other airport-based aviation service companies that provide refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB639.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Zeller  
12808 Brighton Dam Road  
Clarksville (District 9A)

**HB639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Scherr

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 19, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Elizabeth offers favorable testimony in support of HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

My name is Elizabeth and I live in Baltimore. I am very favorable to the proposed bill HB639. With the increase of individuals detained in 2025, there was a significant increase in their transport via airways. Concurrent with this increase were startling reports of conditions on board.

Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each is taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB639.

Elizabeth Scherr, 21224

# **TESTIMONY FOR HB0639 Transportation - Aviation - P**

Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

**HB 0639 – Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gita Lefstein, and I am a resident of Baltimore County, Maryland. I am writing in support of HB0639, Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act). Immigrants in our communities are being terrorized, picked up when they try to follow the steps the government has provided and go to immigration related appointments, picked up in the streets, picked up in their workplaces, picked up everywhere. Immigrants who are being detained are being sent by plane to detention centers, often shackled. They are often being sent under unsafe conditions. Families are being torn apart. ICE is out of control. We need to do everything we can to stop this immoral and illegal treatment of people who are just trying to live their lives. It is up to us to do what we can to curb them. At least we can make sure that people going through our airports are treated humanely and safely. This bill would provide some safeguards for safety, for health issues, and for minors.

I respectfully urge you to issue a favorable report on HB0639.

Thank you.

# **HB 639 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: GLENN PERRYMAN

Position: FAV

HB 639

Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety Act

I am **in favor** of HB 639 as the bill would make it more difficult for ICE to move/transport those whom it abducts in Maryland by setting safety standards (like no ankle shackles). ICE needs to be reined in from their unlawful behavior toward immigrants.

Thank you!

Glenn Perryman

Hollywood, Maryland

# **HB639IreneDonahue.pdf**

Uploaded by: Irene Donahue

Position: FAV

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Irene Donahue offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Irene Donahue and I live in Baltimore City. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. 2025 saw a huge increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Irene Donahue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218

**JH HB0639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jess Hencke

Position: FAV

Jess Hencke  
6552 Tinker Round  
Columbia, MD 21045  
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety  
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)

2/19/2026

TO: Chair Marc Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Jess Hencke

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Jess Hencke, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act. If enacted, this act would ensure a number of measures committed to transparency and the importance of human safety. Requiring collected records about who is on board and where they are being sent is standard passenger documentation, and should be even more important when transporting supposedly “violent criminals;” yet this is something the current administration’s DOJ has been negligent about. There should be a paper trail for any detainee on a flight.

Additionally, the requirement to remove certain restraints while refueling will allow for escape in the event of a dangerous accident. Even supposed criminals deserve safety in the event of an accident. For the many that we know are innocent of any crime, just as much reason to document where they are going, in the hopes of returning them back home to the US.

I urge you to support HB0639 and help ensure that all flights out of Maryland maintain the dignity and safety of anyone on board a flight out, while keeping meaningful records about where those folks are headed.

# **Testimony HB 639 - Aviation Health and Safety Act**

Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero

Position: FAV



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

## Testimony

### HB 639 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act) FAVORABLE REPORT

To: Del. Marc Korman, Chair, Del. Michele Guyton, Vice-Chair, and  
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Date: February 19, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of **HB 639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)** which will require the Maryland Aviation Administration to require flight crews with detained individuals aboard to complete certain confirmations and prohibit the refueling of an aircraft if an individual on board is in any kind of restraint.

I encourage you to deliver a **FAVORABLE REPORT**.

Over a six-month period, deportation flights under the current national administration have nearly doubled, totaling almost 6000. These flights are fraught with danger. ProPublica, for example, reports a not uncommon incident where a young girl on a flight to Mexico, had collapsed because she was unable to breathe, and flight attendants had to climb over rows of shackled migrants to get to her. Safety concerns are paramount as flight attendants say that while they have been trained to evacuate passengers, they have not been trained in how to remove passengers whose hands and legs are chained.

Many of the detainees have committed only a civil immigration violation, shackling them is abhorrent and contrary to my beliefs. My faith, which I share with more than 4000 Unitarian Universalists across our state, calls me to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Surely there are more humane methods available that the Maryland Aviation Administration can ensure.

Thank you.

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

[www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org) [info@uulmmd.org](mailto:info@uulmmd.org) [www.facebook.com/uulmmd](https://www.facebook.com/uulmmd) [www.twitter.com/uulmmd](https://www.twitter.com/uulmmd)



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

*Shared voices for liberal religious values in Maryland*

### Sources:

Bellisle, Martha. "U.S. Deportation Flights Hit Record Highs..." Associated Press, August 27, 2025,

<https://apnews.com/article/ice-deportation-immigration-flights-f61941d31adf43a6a01cccc720f3bb01>

Frank, McKenzie. "Inside ICE Air: Flight Attendants on Deportation Planes Say Disaster Is 'Only a Matter of Time'" ProPublica, April 1, 2025,

<https://www.propublica.org/article/inside-ice-air-deportation-flights>

**UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,**

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**HB639testimonyFeb162026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jodi Beder

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health  
and Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Jodi Beder offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

I have been a resident of Maryland since 2003 (District 47A, represented by Senator Augustine and Delegates Fennell and Ivey), a book editor, musician, and concerned citizen for my entire adult life. I vote in every election.

As a taxpayer and a citizen, I feel that everything the state does, it does in my name. This includes everything the state chooses to regulate, or chooses to ignore.

The safety conditions on airplanes that have been purposed or repurposed to transport incarcerated people, especially recently in the case of people swept as “illegals,” violates the Eighth Amendment, and is inhumane and immoral. Our legislature has the power and obligation to take a stand to keep this from happening within our state. I applaud Delegate Charkoudian for their sponsorship of this bill.

I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Jodi Beder, Mt Rainier, MD 20712

# **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Judy Karasik

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety  
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)  
Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 17, 2026**

Chair Marc Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee: My name is Judy Karasik. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland from 2001 to the present and previously resided in Chevy Chase from 1958 to 1971. I am among a group of neighbors who last year formed North Woodside Civil Resistance out of concern for the threat to our democracy posed by the actions of the Trump administration.

**I write in support of HB639, the Aviation Health & Safety Act.**

I am 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. **HB639** is an important piece of this overall legislative fabric.

**HB639** 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. Detainee flights increased dramatically in 2025 and are likely to continue rising.

The legislation usefully includes requirements that:

**Flight crews distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers on flights with detainees** aboard, including 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 keep documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information** if their parents are not with them, required by Maryland law for care of the minor in a medical emergency.

**Flight crews 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, as well as **information about any pending legal proceedings.**

**Flight crews** keep copies of these forms in the airplane and, **in the case of an emergency, share the information with emergency responders or hospitals in the state.**

**Flight providers** check to ensure that the forms have been completed and are stowed safely on the aircraft.

**Flight providers** provide copies of the forms to the Administration monthly.

**Refueling** does not occur if passengers are under any kind of restraint.

Thank you for your consideration.

# HouseBill#0639.transportation safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Julie Solomon

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 19, 2026  
Julie Robin Solomon  
Baltimore, MD 21231

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0639  
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Full Bill Name: Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**TO:** Chair Del. Marc Korman; Vice Chair Del. Michele Guyton; and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Julie Robin Solomon

**My name is Julie Robin Solomon. I am a resident of District 46. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0639, Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

I have resided in Baltimore City for 39 years. I belong to the ACLU and Indivisible Baltimore. I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB#0639 to protect the safety of our immigrant families who are being transported by air. We need to remain humane and safety-conscious in Maryland and not allow flights from our airports to fly without adequate safety measures in place for all passengers. We must protect our immigrant families from the inhumane deprivations of ICE Flights.

I depend daily on our immigrant community, which every day provides vital services in our hospitals, nursing homes, schools, stores, government offices, and construction sites. As the grandchild of immigrants, I know that our country, state and nation have been erected on the backs of their hard work. It is essential that we protect them and keep our communities whole. After the dreadful murder of Rene Good and Alex Petrie in Minneapolis, we all know that each and every one of us is endangered by poorly trained, lawless ICE and Border Patrol actions. Flights that don't meet safety standards are just another example of this inhumanity.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB#0639. Thank you for all your hard work to protect us at this treacherous moment in our country's history.

**KMK\_Testimony\_HB639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Murphy-Keddell

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill-Favorable**  
**HB639 Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety**  
**(Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee:

**I am offering favorable testimony in support of HB639 Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).**

Maryland first responders respond to medical emergencies at Maryland airports, and individuals experiencing medical emergencies are treated at nearby hospitals. It is critical that emergency responders and Maryland hospitals have sufficient information to respond to these emergencies.

Maryland airports have experienced an increased number of flights through the airport with individuals in restraints. The FAA's current evacuation standards mandate that all passengers must be capable of evacuating within 90 seconds. This is challenging under any circumstances, but impossible if individuals are in restraints.

Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in our state are operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of the passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on one of these flights. The FAA has authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport based companies who provide the refueling.

As a Unitarian Universalist, my faith teaches me that all people have inherent worth and dignity. I am supporting this bill it provides passengers and crew the health and safety they deserve under any circumstance.

**I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB639.**

Sincerely,  
Karen Murphy-Keddell  
Howard County Resident  
21046

# **HB 639 ENT Sugarman fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV

Testimony on HB 639 - Favorable

**HB 639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 19, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, and Members of the Committee,

I am a family doctor living in D 15 and I offer a favorable testimony in strong support of HB 639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).

I am a member of Doctors for Camp Closure, Maryland. I am Jewish and I take very seriously the Biblical commandment of welcoming the stranger. As a doctor I know without a shadow of a doubt that there is no healthy amount of time for a person to be in detention.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values of basic dignity and well-being for all people who find themselves in our state, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. This bill affirms that Maryland should stand firm in its commitment to safety, due process, and belief in a shared humanity - by prohibiting dangerous and inhumane practices that also inhibit our own medical providers' abilities to do their jobs of alleviating suffering.

Multiple factors put people flying in shackles at greatly increased risk of medical harm. Flights have an artificial cabin environment: lower air pressure (which affects multiple body systems), reduced oxygen levels, and low humidity. Prolonged immobility allows blood to pool in the arms and especially legs, where it can form dangerous clots, particularly if dehydration thickens the blood. It also can lead to muscle stiffness and soreness, swelling, joint compression, and nerve impingement. In combination with decreased cabin pressure and/or dehydration, people can experience painful bloating, dangerous constipation, and urinary tract infections. 3-point shackles (wrists, ankles, and waist—all connected) cause pain and harms including: a breakdown of the skin and damage to surrounding structures leading to severe bruising, abrasions, lesions, fractures, neuropathies, ulcers, infections, scarring, lacerations, and injuries to the ulnar, radial, and median nerves. An additional restraint, the straightjacket-like "WRAP", is even more dangerous. The weight and tripping hazards of the ankle cuffs and chains makes it difficult to walk safely. That, dizziness, and lack of normal arm movement have led to falls boarding and deboarding.

People on ICE flights get transferred repeatedly, sometimes up to 20 times. Flights can have circuitous routes and multiple stops; two people deported to Asian countries were reportedly shackled for 73 hours and 80 hours straight. Reports are common of limited food, water, and bathroom breaks—with people still in shackles, which makes good toileting hygiene very difficult.

It is also common for people to soil and wet themselves during these flights, which is devastating but also hazardous in terms of skin integrity, infection, and spread of infection.

As a family doctor I stand with immigrant communities and support a clean bill which will reject participation in inhumane processes to the greatest degree possible--and demand that we in the medical profession have the tools to instead act as healers.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 639.

Kate Sugarman, MD

Potomac MD

# **H639KathrynKutz.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kathryn Kutz

Position: FAV

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Kathryn Kutz offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Kathryn Kutz and I live in Baltimore City. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. 2025 saw a huge increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Kathryn Kutz, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218

# Written Testimony - HB0639.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Little

Position: FAV

Written Testimony

Bill: **HB0639**

Position: **FAV**

February 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

As a concerned Maryland citizen, I am in favor of HB0639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act) and I urge your support.

This bill promotes the health of passengers aboard flights passing through and refueling in Maryland. By providing detained passengers with a form to voluntarily report medical information ahead of time, this bill enables Maryland first responders and hospital workers to do their jobs better in case of health emergencies.

This bill also promotes basic dignity for passengers in restraints by requiring that they be in a climate-controlled environment with access to restrooms and water if and when their plane is being refueled in Maryland.

These provisions make flights through Maryland safer for everyone involved and promote the humane treatment of passengers in restraints.

I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Little  
881 W Lombard St  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kathy Shulman

Position: FAV

## **TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 639, Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026**

### **KATHY SHULMAN, MEMBER OF INDIVISIBLE BALTIMORE CITY**

Indivisible Baltimore is a unified coalition of diverse Baltimore residents who aim to connect, build, and support our community to uphold democracy, justice, and human dignity. We hold local, state and national leaders accountable, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening democratic participation. Through empathy, education, and nonviolent resistance, we build bridges across political and social divides—because real change happens when we listen, learn, and act together. To date, we represent more than 2300 Baltimore City residents.

We support this legislation as it helps our state protect our immigrant neighbors and those immigrants across the country who are unjustly and illegally detained and deported by the Department of Homeland Security.

The highlights of the legislation speak for themselves and include:

“Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in the state are operated in manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on any of these flights. The FAA has the authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport-based companies who provide the refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

This bill will:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Require 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.
- ✓ Require that these 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.

✓ Require 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.

✓ Require 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.

✓ The fixed base operator or aviation service company will be responsible for monthly monitoring reports to the MAA, which will ensure compliance and transparency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shulman,

Co-Lead Immigration Working Group, Indivisible Baltimore

[kathyshulman@proton.me](mailto:kathyshulman@proton.me)

410-303-5037

**Allen - HB 639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kelly Allen

Position: FAV

Written Testimony for HB 639 *Aviation Health and Safety Act* (FAV)

February 17, 2026

Kelly Allen

1300 Summit Ave, Apt 2W

Catonsville, MD 21228

[kellyallen@proton.me](mailto:kellyallen@proton.me)

443.465.9016

I am writing to express my support for HB 639. This bill would implement common-sense safety measures that the Avelo flight attendants' union has pointed out would reduce the risk of injury and death of restrained passengers. These types of measures are mandated by the FAA for commercial and other flight types, and there is no justification for flights that carry restrained passengers to be exempt from them. Given that these passengers have been taken into custody, there is arguably a higher standard of safety to be met. According to the Avelo union, six incidents between 2014 and 2019 required evacuation—situations in which both passengers and flight crew were needlessly endangered.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

**KH HB0639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kevin Hencke

Position: FAV

Kevin Hencke  
6552 Tinker Round  
Columbia, MD 21045  
District 13

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety  
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)

2/19/2026

TO: Chair Marc Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Kevin Hencke

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Kevin Hencke, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support HB0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act. If enacted, this act would ensure a number of measures committed to transparency and the importance of human safety. Requiring collected records about who is on board and where they are being sent is standard passenger documentation, and should be even more important when transporting supposedly “violent criminals;” yet this is something the current administration’s DOJ has been negligent about. There should be a paper trail for any detainee on a flight.

Additionally, the requirement to remove certain restraints while refueling will allow for escape in the event of a dangerous accident. Even supposed criminals deserve safety in the event of an accident. For the many that we know are innocent of any crime, just as much reason to document where they are going, in the hopes of returning them back home to the US.

I urge you to support HB0639 and help ensure that all flights out of Maryland maintain the dignity and safety of anyone on board a flight out, while keeping meaningful records about where those folks are headed.

# **HB639Aviation2026ETMinkFav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kristin Mink

Position: FAV



**HB 639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety  
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)  
Hearing before the House of Delegates Environmental and  
Transportation Committee,  
Feb. 19, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT (FAV)**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee,

As I know this body recognizes, we are at a moment in history when it is incumbent upon us as legislators to do everything in our power to fight back against the devastating harms ICE and this Federal administration are wreaking upon our community members. The Aviation Health and Safety Act, HB 639, is potentially one of the most impactful tools you have at your disposal, and I urge you to give it a favorable report.

The FAA has authority over many – *but not all* – aspects of the detention flights passing regularly through Maryland airports. Maryland has authority over the airport-based companies that provide aviation services such as fueling, and so this body has the opportunity and the responsibility to address the egregious violations of human rights occurring on our tarmacs.

Flight attendants have been vocal about the impossibility of meeting FAA standards on evacuation times with passengers who are shackled for the purpose of restraining their movements.<sup>1</sup> **Flight attendants have reported being told to simply leave detainees on board in case of emergency.<sup>2</sup> And the risk of fires and explosions is especially high during fueling.**

The Aviation Health and Safety Act will ban the fueling of flights with individuals in any kind of restraint on board. When individuals in restraints are removed so the airplane

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<sup>1</sup> [14 CFR § 25.803 - Emergency evacuation. | Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(e-CFR\) | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Inside ICE Air: What It's Like to Be a Deportation Flight Attendant — ProPublica](#)

can be fueled, they must be in a climate-controlled enclosure and must have access to restrooms and water.

**There are regular reports of detainees being denied critical medical care, both in detention facilities and once on flights. You can do something about this.** HB 639 requires that flight crews distribute and collect medical forms from all detained passengers to be provided to emergency responders or hospitals in case of a medical emergency, with compliance noted by the aviation service company prior to services like fueling.

The bill also requires documentation of minors on board and their guardianship information if parents are not also on board – necessary information in the state of Maryland should there be a medical emergency that requires care for this minor.

**While HB 639 will directly address serious health and safety issues, it will also have the side effect of slowing down deportation flights and simply tracking where detainees are taken, an impact that will be multiplied if other states follow suit.** These flights are stacked with residents being rushed out of the country, often for the very purpose of denying them access to legal support and due process.

For example, a few months ago, I received a call about a high school student who had been detained by ICE a few days prior, after being a passenger in a vehicle that was stopped by Feds. She had suddenly stopped showing up in the ICE locator search, and her parents were, of course, panicked. As we spoke, they received a call from her: She was in another country. **She had been deported, without being able to notify her parents, without time for their lawyer to take action, without the ability for her family to plan for her safety upon arrival in another country.**

Another Montgomery County resident, a father originally from Mexico, was dropped in Guatemala with no prior notice to him or his family — without his ID, phone, or money.

To be clear: **With this bill, you have an opportunity to ensure that Maryland knows who is on deportation flights, including if there are detained minors without their parents — who may be desperately looking for them.** It is a moral imperative that we take this opportunity.

No other legislation before the legislature this year addresses these issues.

Our residents, our values, and all of our rights are under attack. HB 639 is brilliant. It is necessary. And it will mark the start of other states taking what control they can through

their airports as well. Please take this opportunity to lead by ensuring its quick passage out of Committee with a favorable report.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KM', is positioned below the 'Thank you.' text.

Kristin Mink,  
Councilmember  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
District 5

# **HB639.favorable.DoctorsForCampClosure.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Atwood

Position: FAV



### **Testimony on HB639 - Favorable**

Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety

(Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing date: February 19, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura Atwood, I'm a longtime Maryland resident, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maryland chapter of Doctors for Camp Closure. Doctors for Camp Closure is a nonpartisan organization of over 2,200 physicians and healthcare professionals from multiple specialties who oppose inhumane detention and related practices. We advocate for humane and just treatment for all.

As an inpatient physical therapist with a clinical doctorate (DPT), I've spent my career focused on the interplay between immobility and other aspects of health. I recently had a patient who had a clot that broke apart and traveled to his lungs, and he turned blue before my eyes; these are real happenings. He survived due to rapid care in a setting where his medical history and medications were known.

Before I personally treat anyone, I need to know multiple things, such as: Are they diabetic? Do they have congenital or acquired cardiac issues? High or low blood pressure? Any bleeding disorders or bloodthinner medication? History of joint issues, dislocations, surgeries? Frequent pain, and factors that increase or decrease it?

I often tell my medically vulnerable patients: "One of the most dangerous things you can do is lie in bed (excessively)." (For them, risks of immobility include clots, skin breakdown, pneumonia, and depression.) For the broader public, flying is right up there in dangers, due to immobility, combined with the impacts of low cabin pressure on multiple body systems and dehydration from dry air and often reduced fluids; I personally know four people who've developed clots while flying in the last year.

Risks of flying are immensely compounded for detained people due to the numbers and lengths of flights they commonly experience, often-deplorable conditions on and between flights, and especially the use throughout of 3-point shackles (at the wrists,

ankles, and waist—all connected) and sometimes even straightjacket-like restraints. The shackles themselves are famously painful, further reduce mobility, and can cause multiple injuries including severe bruises, cuts, swelling, fractures, and nerve damage.

We don't know how many injuries, illnesses, and deaths have occurred on deportation-related flights; when a journalist asked if DHS tracks them, DHS did not answer.

At BWI, the number of flights of shackled people has risen dramatically in the last year. As a state, we must be prepared for when—not if—people come to us in dire medical condition. Our emergency responders need information so they can act quickly and effectively. We need reasonable safety precautions that account for the fact that it's harder and slower for shackled people to evacuate in an emergency; and they definitely should not be on board while planes are refueled—this is basic. We must consider long-term ethical, legal, and financial risks in dangerously transporting people against their will, often without due process or judicial warrants.

As a medical professional, I believe Maryland must take all reasonable steps so our emergency providers are equipped to treat detained people passing through our airports in medical distress. And as a Maryland taxpayer, I don't want to help pay considerable damages because the state failed to take these basic measures. Enacting this bill greatly reduces multiple risks and is the right thing to do.

Doctors for Camp Closure urges the committee to make a favorable report on HB639. Thank you.

Laura Atwood  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Healthcare member of Doctors for Camp Closure

# **Testimony HB639 FAVORABLE.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV



**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

**HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Indivisible HoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible Howard County has more than 1,700 members focused on making our county and state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

HB639 seeks to establish minimum health and safety requirements for detained individuals on flights landing at BWI. This is increasingly important since the number of flights with detained indivisible passing through Maryland airports has increased. In 2025 87 ICE flights passed through BWI. In 2024, there were none. [ICE-Flight-Monitor-US-Immigration-Enforcement-Flights-Report\\_Dec2025.pdf](#)

Given the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to build detention centers in Maryland, it is likely that the number of flights will continue to increase.

The State has a responsibility to safeguard all passengers on flights through Maryland airports. The FAA's current evacuation standards mandate that all passengers must be capable of evacuating an aircraft within 90 seconds. This is impossible if individuals are in restraints. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/14/25.803>.

There is every reason to believe that detainees on ICE flights are held in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. Flight attendants for Avelo Airlines which once contracted with ICE, complained about unsafe conditions on ICE flights with passengers in shackles (although many have committed civil, not criminal, violations) and deprived of food, water, and bathroom breaks. We have recently seen videos of the Baltimore detention centers where detainees were held in squalid, crowded, and very unhealthy conditions.

[https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/investigations/ice-detention-facility-overcrowding-baltimore-whistleblower-dhs-unsanitary-trump/65-03dda8d7-49a9-4caf-b001-db5e12a04158?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/investigations/ice-detention-facility-overcrowding-baltimore-whistleblower-dhs-unsanitary-trump/65-03dda8d7-49a9-4caf-b001-db5e12a04158?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

IndivisibleHoCoMD urges the Committee to ensure the safety of all airline passengers in Maryland and give a **favorable report on HB 639**.

Laurie Liskin on behalf of IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Howard County, Maryland 21042



# **HB639 FAVORABLE-Lia Nigro.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lia Nigro

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**  
**HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

I, Lia Nigro, wish to offer favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Current conditions on deportation flights are dangerous and inhumane. Maryland has the ability to control some of these conditions for those flights refueling at BWI, and to make a statement about health and safety expectations that can be a model for other states. We should do so.

There are very practical reasons for the requirements proposed in HB639. While BWI is not a huge deportation hub, 84 such flights stopped there in 2025, a number likely to increase. The conditions and stress passengers on these flights experience are a strong potential trigger for health emergencies—from asthma and heart attacks to embolisms from being shackled and not able to move freely. Background medical information can save lives.

Similarly, relief from shackles to the extent Maryland can provide not only demonstrates our state’s humanity but may save lives. Shackling as it is currently being conducted, for an entire plane of individuals, prevents timely evacuation of aircraft. We do not need such a hazard on our runways any longer than we can avoid.

This bill is also important on moral grounds. Innocent people being shackled is not a sight we should ignore. Let’s stand up and do what we can.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Lia Nigro, Resident District 12A (21044)



# **Testimony FOR HB639 Girdner.pdf**

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

Testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**. During 2025 we saw a huge increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters describing how planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Senate Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Girdner

941 Fall Ridge Way

Gambrills, MD 21054

# Testimony HB 639.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Siano

Position: FAV

My name is Lisa Siano. I live in Columbia, MD (21044). I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of HB 639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in the state are operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on any of these flights. The FAA has the authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport based companies who provide the refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 639

# **TESTIMONY FOR HB0639\_ Safety of Transportation.pdf**

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV



**Admin Team**  
**Email: [info@ibbmd.org](mailto:info@ibbmd.org)**  
Liz Enagonio  
Jasmine Gollup  
Amy Stevens  
Carriann Petersen

**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.

**Testimony.HB639\_Delegate Lorig Charkoudian.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lorig Charkoudian

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 639 - TRANSPORTATION - AVIATION - PASSENGER HEALTH AND SAFETY (AVIATION  
HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT)

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN  
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Chair Kohrman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Maryland first responders respond to medical emergencies at Maryland airports, and individuals experiencing medical emergencies are treated at nearby hospitals. It is critical that emergency responders and Maryland hospitals have sufficient information to respond to these emergencies.

Maryland airports have experienced an increased number of flights through the airport with individuals in restraints. The FAA's current evacuation standards mandate that all passengers must be capable of evacuating an aircraft within 90 seconds<sup>1</sup>. This is challenging under any circumstance, but impossible if individuals are in restraints.

Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in the state are operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on any of these flights. The FAA has the authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport based companies who provide the refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

This bill will:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Require 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.
- ✓ Require that these 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.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/14/25.803>

- ✓ Require 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.
- ✓ Require 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.
- ✓ The fixed base operator or aviation service company will be responsible for monthly monitoring reports to the MAA, which will ensure compliance and transparency.
- ✓ Fixed Base Operators may not service a flight with people in restraints, unless the airline provides evidence of a judicial warrant for the people on board in restraints.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 639.

**HB0639 - Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026.docx**

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR  
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR  
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER  
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY  
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Michele Guyton], Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/19/2026  
RE: HB0639 - Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026

### **The MLLC supports HB0639 - Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0639.

In general, individuals in restraints on flights require more health and safety standards for their travels. Over the past year, Latino and immigrant populations have been particularly susceptible to these dangers as deportation flights have skyrocketed with a 44% increase since Trump came back in office.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, there has been a 123% increase in the flight transfer of immigrant detainees within the U.S., moving detainees from detention centers to deportation staging facilities.<sup>2</sup> Reports show that individuals on these deportation and transfer flights are often shackled on the wrists, waist, and ankles, and some are even in full-body restraints.<sup>3</sup> Latinos are overwhelmingly the main immigrant population subject to ICE arrests and proceedings.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, Latinos are also the main immigrant population subject to the risks inherent to being restrained on a flight.

This bill would help better the safety of Latinos on deportation and transfer flights by ensuring there are explicit safety procedures that are followed and that any specific medical needs are known to the flight attendants. Moreover, this bill would assist by ensuring that flight staff are aware of the legal proceedings an individual is involved in, so that they can act accordingly and not overly restrain someone with no history of violent conduct. Ultimately, this bill would ensure that all individuals flying in restraints are kept safe and not put at any unnecessary risk.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0639.

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<sup>1</sup> [ICE Deportation Flights Increased by 44% Since Trump Returned to Office - NOTUS — News of the United States](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> [New ICE Flight Monitor Report Shows Sharp Escalation of Deportation and Domestic Transfer Flights Under Trump Administration - Human Rights First](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UCLA Report Finds Latino Arrests by ICE Have Skyrocketed Under the Trump Administration's Second Term](#)

# **Testimony on House Bill 639-MGK.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michelle Koul

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill 639 – Favorable  
HB0639, Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety  
Act), House Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 17, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Koul, and I am a constituent of District 31. I am writing **in support of HB0639, Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

I am horrified to watch how immigrants' rights are being pushed aside in the name of politics and fear. With the heartless behavior at the federal level, Maryland needs to step in to ensure the health and safety of passengers and crew. This bill will keep those caught up in this federal out-of-control deportation fiasco safe while being transported. Maryland needs to use its authority over fixed base operators and aviation refueling service companies to implement the requirements of this bill.

The fact that they are losing children is appalling. Documenting minors in case they need medical care is the bare minimum we can do. We can no longer trust that our federal government will do the right thing – Maryland has to step up.

Please issue a **favorable report on HB639**.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
*Dr. Michelle Koul (she/her)*  
*Severna Park, MD 21146*

**2026 HB0639 testimony Ateto.pdf**

Uploaded by: Philip Ateto

Position: FAV

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

My name is Philip Ateto and I am a lifelong Marylander, currently residing in Annapolis, in Anne Arundel County. I am writing in support of HB0639- The Aviation Health and Safety Act.

I support this bill because of the inhumane way our government has been treating immigrants that are being deported, which is only a civil offense.

This legislation will ensure that any detainees aboard an aircraft are treated humanely, and in a way that keeps both them, and those on the plane safe.

A society is measured not by the wealthiest and most privileged, but how it treats the least amongst us, and we are failing miserably on many fronts. This bill is potentially a small step for us to regain our humanity in this country.

# **HB 0639 FAV Environment and Transportation Committ**

Uploaded by: Philippa Gasnier

Position: FAV

Philippa Gasnier  
7005 Southwark Terrace  
Hyattsville MD 20782  
(240) 475-2202  
pegemail@gmail.com

Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee  
Testimony on: HB 0639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)  
Organization: Individual  
Person Submitting: Philippa Gasnier  
Position: Favorable  
Hearing Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chairman Korman and members of the committee,

I am writing in favor of HB-0639 (HB 0639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)), which would set certain standards and procedures for flights with detainees.

The media has reported that ICE flights have not accounted for the safety of passengers and flight attendants in the event of an emergency. There has been no training for flight attendants on evacuation of shackled passengers and no accounting in protocols or plane modifications for emergency exits involving detained passengers.

I am also concerned about possible legal liability. I have seen reports that there were at least six incidents on ICE charter flights requiring evacuations between 2014 and 2019. If Maryland does not take action to ensure that safety protocols are in place and followed, we risk lawsuits and costly damages, in addition to possible tragedies.

I support HB-0639 as an important safety measure and ask that you vote in favor of this bill.

Thank you,  
Philippa Gasnier

**In support of HB0639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rhys Frazier

Position: FAV

Re: HB0639: Transportation — Aviation — Passenger Health and Safety  
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Honorable members of the Maryland General Assembly Environment and  
Transportation Committee,

My name is Rhys Frazier and I am a resident of Sabillasville, Maryland. I am  
writing to you in support of HB0639: Transportation — Aviation — Passenger  
Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).

This critical piece of legislation helps to address FAA safety violations and other  
legal violations being committed on ICE deportation flights. Collecting medical  
information from detained people in case of emergencies, banning restraints  
that could lead to injury or death in case of aircraft failure, requiring the contact  
information of legal guardians and attorneys, and requiring proof that ICE  
agents have a valid governmental authorization are all bare minimum  
requirements for the safe and humane transport of human beings. These  
requirements are not being met at this time, and people who are harmed in  
transit or wrongly deported have few to no options for legal recourse. The  
proposed bill would help prevent harm by explicitly requiring safety and legal  
requirements be met before the flight can even take off.

I urge the committee to vote in favor of HB0639: Transportation — Aviation —  
Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act), in the name of  
basic human decency.

Sincerely,

Rhys Frazier

14545 Brown Road,

Sabillasvile, MD21780

# **Testimony in support of HB0639 - Aviation Health a**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

02/19/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0639 - POSITION:**  
**FAVORABLE**

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

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

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB#/0639, Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

The actions of the Federal Administration during deportation flights from Maryland have demonstrated the need for this bill. It will protect the rights of persons on those flights and mandate constitutional safeguards and moral and ethical treatment as primary for those on the flights.

Among the deprivations that have been found are: <sup>1</sup>

- Destinations and Passengers: Flights often transported detainees to detention centers, such as those in Louisiana. Passengers included individuals targeted for removal, including some accused of gang affiliation.
- Controversies and Incidents:
  - Wrongful Deportation: In 2025, it was revealed that a Maryland man was mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison, an action involving these deportation flights.
  - Conditions: Reports from [ICE air flights](#) (not solely in MD) described detainees, including families, being transported in shackles, with, at times, inadequate medical attention for emergencies.

This bill changes the paradigms on these flights if they occur in Maryland by requiring the Maryland Aviation Administration to develop certain passenger forms for aircraft traveling with detained individuals; requiring certain flight crews to distribute and collect certain forms; requiring certain aeronautical service providers to confirm that the forms are on board an aircraft before servicing the aircraft; prohibiting the refueling of an aircraft if an individual on board is in any kind of restraint; requiring that certain individuals who are removed from an aircraft be provided certain services; etc.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0639.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search “what occurred during deportation flights in Maryland”

# **Testimony on House Bill639.pdf**

Uploaded by: Samia Lalani

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and  
Safety Act)**

**Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Corman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee

Samia Lalani offers favorable testimony in support of **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Samia Lalani and I live in Baltimore, Maryland. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. 2025 saw a huge increase in flights of detained persons, as well as alarming reports about the conditions on board. Flight attendants wrote open letters where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights, and there appears to be very little oversight in general.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act – where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people, the fixed based operator or aviation service company are, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB639.**

Samia Lalani

Baltimore, MD 21218



**HB639-testimony-SDavis.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shannon Davis

Position: FAV

## **Testimony on House Bill – Favorable**

### **HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

#### **Environment and Transportation Committee**

**February 19, 2026**

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee:

#### **Shannon Davis offers favorable testimony in support of HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).**

I have called Glen Burnie home since 2008. My husband has lived here his entire life, and I have come to love this part of our beautiful state as much as he does. We are raising our son here and teaching him to care about his community, even those who pass through it briefly. Living within walking distance of BWI Airport and gaining a deeper understanding of its crucial role in the lives of our neighbors and businesses has expanded the ways in which I think of “community.” We do our best to be good neighbors with the airport, and always hope for that to be reciprocated.

Although we love to watch the planes and imagine the adventures those aboard might be embarking on, we also know that not everyone transiting through BWI is flying the friendly skies. It is no secret that ICE deportation flights use our airport and its affiliated service providers. Detained passengers are often shackled or restrained in more extreme ways that prohibit movement entirely. This is not merely uncomfortable or dehumanizing; it can be life-threatening in the event of an emergency. This bill proposes common-sense measures to keep these passengers safe, including documenting medical issues and attorney contact information should a restrained passenger require emergency medical care. It requires guardianship information for minors (who are especially vulnerable to abuses in the immigration and carceral systems), and I think we can all agree children deserve extra care. The requirements of this bill are not burdensome; in fact, I consider them the bare minimum to ensure the safety and well being of people who cannot advocate for themselves.

I care deeply about this bill as a Marylander, as a resident of Anne Arundel County, and as a mother. I also care as someone who works in immigration law. I serve low-income immigrants in need of legal advice and support navigating a system designed to prevent them and their families from obtaining the benefits they seek. Contrary to the

inflammatory rhetoric that often clouds the issue, these benefits are as basic as a safe place to live, freedom from fear of persecution, and dignified work. If any of my clients or their family members were to be detained by ICE and placed on one of these flights, it would be heartbreaking. It would be even worse to know that they were being transported in chains or a full-body restraint, placing them at heightened risk of death or injury while on the plane. As people of conscience, we are in a moment where the powers that be are refuting the human rights and dignity of migrants. We must face this moment with compassion. Maryland owes a duty of care to all who visit our state, however briefly or for whatever reason they are here.

**I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on HB639.**

Shannon Davis  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

**HB 0639 FAV - WDC Testimony 19 Feb 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelby Harper

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

[www.womensdemocraticclub.org](http://www.womensdemocraticclub.org)

**HB 0639 Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety  
Environment and Transportation Committee, February 19, 2026  
SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2026 legislative session. Founded in 1956, WDC is one of Maryland's largest and most active Democratic clubs, with hundreds of politically active members, including many elected officials. WDC is known for its advocacy for law and policy to improve the lives of women and their families.

WDC urges swift passage of **HB 639 Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**. We support the Aviation Health and Safety Act because it would ensure humane standards for people on flights passing through and refueling in Maryland, and establish accountability, transparency, and oversight.

ICE's history of transportation of detained noncitizens via aircraft is fraught with [allegations of abuse and human rights violations](#). ICE's use of [full-body restraint suits called the WRAP](#) is heavily criticized, and its use on already-shackled men during a 16-hour-flight to West Africa is the subject of a [lawsuit against DHS](#). Flight attendants have [sounded the alarm](#) about the potentially deadly consequences of inhuman treatment of noncitizens on deportation flights. ICE has a [long history of medical neglect on flights](#) that have resulted in heart attacks, miscarriage, and death.

By requiring flights passing through and refueling in Maryland to be operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew, the Aviation Health and Safety Act will ensure much-needed safety standards. By requiring climate-controlled, humane, and sanitary conditions for detained individuals, the Aviation Health and Safety Act will protect the safety and dignity of individuals in transport. The Act's requirements regarding medical forms, minors, and attorney contact information are critical safety and accountability requirements that protect the most vulnerable passengers. The establishment of monthly monitoring reports to the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) will ensure appropriate oversight, transparency, and accountability.

**WDC applauds the sponsors of HB 0639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act. We ask for your support for HB 639 and strongly urge swift passage.**

Cynthia Rubenstein  
WDC President

Shelby Settles Harper  
WDC Immigration  
Subcommittee

Kate Stein  
WDC Advocacy  
Chair

**hb639\_testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tamas Varnai

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill 639 – Favorable**  
**HB639 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 17, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, Members of the Committee:

I urge you to support HB639, Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act). I believe the act is an important step toward ensuring safety for people who fly in restraints.

One reason I support this bill is that I know several people who experienced medical emergencies during long flights or shortly afterwards (most likely as a result of the long flight), and I also witnessed medical emergencies of fellow passengers. Some of these incidents resulted in emergency landing, hospitalization, and even death. The risk of such emergencies is even larger for people flying in restraints—for example, their limited mobility increases the chances of blood clots and their anxiety increases the risk of heart attacks. Information on a person's medical history can be critical for effective help—for example, helpers need to know of any allergies or medical conditions such as diabetes. Commercial airline passengers have the ability to provide such information in various ways before departure through the airline, phone apps, or by flying with fellow travelers who know their medical conditions—and this bill would ensure that people flying in restraints can also provide the information needed to effectively help in case of a medical emergency.

Another reason why I urge you to support the bill is the desire to ensure passenger safety during refueling. Refueling is an operation of inherently elevated risk, which requires special precautions even for commercial airlines, such as keeping all doors open and posting flight attendants at each door. This is, of course, because in case of an incident it is critical to evacuate the plane quickly—a task that is much harder if passengers are in restraints. Without effective use of their hands due to the restraints, people could stumble and fall while rushing toward the exit—and if someone fell, others could not easily help them back up, thus blocking the path toward safety. As a result, I believe the best way to ensure safety is to keep restrained passengers off a plane while it refuels—a process that would be required by the proposed bill.

For these reasons, I urge you to give HB639 full consideration and a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Tamas Varnai, Silver Spring, MD, 20910

**HB0639\_fav\_mascioli.pdf**

Uploaded by: William Mascioli

Position: FAV

**HB0639 - SUPPORT**  
William Mascioli  
2021 Luzerne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

[B3mascioli@verizon.net](mailto:B3mascioli@verizon.net)  
301.404.7490

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

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 19, 2026

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.

**HB 639 FAVORABLE Hearing 2-29-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marcia Greenberg

Position: FWA

**RE: HB 639 – AVIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT  
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT  
For Hearing on Feb 19, 2026**

Thank you, Delegate Charkoudian, for sponsoring this legislation. We should all be concerned about the safety of all Marylanders. While we see how ICE and CBP agents murder and injure innocent people, while we watch how they engage pursue and detain innocent people without concern for their physical and mental well-being (whether presumed innocent when accused but not yet found guilty of a crime, or clearly innocent of any criminal accusations whatsoever), we must take all possible actions to ensure the safety and health of our those who reside in, or come to visit, Maryland. We are a community that cares; we are a community that must translate our values into laws, and our laws into enforced policies.

I have traveled on many flights, both domestic and international. For my international development work, I have seen (and flown on) flights that did not meet FAA standards. When engaged in work for the US Agency for International Development that related to Democracy *and Governance*, I have seen governments that do not govern effectively: governments that lack either the will or the capacity to protect the average individuals and families in their countries.

That is not who WE are. We are a nation of laws. We are a nation of government that protects its own. But if our Federal Aviation Agency will not protect people, then our states must step up, and fill that void. This bill, to ensure that detained individuals will be safe, is an important directive to our Maryland Aviation Administration. It not only demonstrates our commitment to the health and safety of all passengers, but it also ensures that airlines with the authorization to use the Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport, adhere to standards that respect lives and protect ALL passengers.

I urge the delegates on the Environment and Transportation Committee to report this bill out favorably. BUT, I also ask that it be amended to be Emergency legislation. There must be some real urgency to put the mechanisms in place as quickly as possible – before ICE/CBP ramp up their efforts to detain and transport people in Maryland.

Thank you,

Marcia Greenberg  
St Mary's County

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR HB 0639 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Cornet

Position: FWA

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0639 WITH AMENDMENTS

Before the House Committee on Environment and Transportation

Hearing Date: March 11, 2026

Submitted by: Robert J. Cornet, Ph. D.

114 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Frederick, MD 21701

On behalf of: The Frederick County ICE/BWI Coalition (The Democracy Action Team of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, Indivisible Frederick, Indivisible Frederick Forward, Washington County Indivisible)

Position: Support with Amendments

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Cornet, and I am a resident of Frederick and an organizer working with community and faith-based partners concerned about the treatment of people who are detained and transported on enforcement flights that use Maryland's airports. I am writing in strong support of House Bill 0639, with targeted clarifying amendments to make the bill more workable for administrators while better protecting the health and safety of people on these flights.

### **Purpose and importance of the bill**

This legislation addresses a narrow but urgent problem: people being transported in restraints on enforcement flights that use Maryland airports often have serious medical needs, ongoing legal matters, or other vulnerabilities, yet there is no clear, state-defined process to identify those needs or ensure that they are communicated to appropriate professionals before an individual is kept on board for fueling, moved between facilities, or put on a long-distance flight. The bill seeks to create basic, practical protections—like access to health and legal screening and standardized forms—so that no one is kept on or placed on an enforcement flight from Maryland without reasonable steps being taken to prevent avoidable harm.

The State has a long-standing and well-recognized interest in protecting the health, safety, and legal rights of people within its borders, particularly where state-regulated entities, contractors, and licensees are involved. This bill fits within that traditional role by setting expectations for how Maryland-based actors interact with people in their custody or care when they are being moved by air on any enforcement flight, regardless of which agency is operating it.

### **Clarifying what the bill regulates – “on the ground,” not federal enforcement policy**

Some concerns have been raised about where Maryland’s authority begins and ends in the highly federalized context of aviation and federal enforcement operations. It is crucial to underscore that this bill does not attempt to tell the federal government whom to detain, whether to remove someone from the country, or how to operate an aircraft. Instead, the bill is properly understood as directing the conduct of Maryland-licensed or Maryland-contracted actors—airport contractors, medical providers, and other state-regulated entities—who interact with people being transported on enforcement flights.

To strengthen this point and address concerns about overreach, I respectfully recommend that the committee:

1. Ensure that the operative provisions are explicitly framed in terms of duties for state-regulated actors (such as airport tenants, ground-service or charter-service vendors operating under contract with the Maryland Aviation Administration or with local airport authorities, and medical/legal providers), rather than as directives to federal officers or flight crew.
2. Include, either in statutory text or committee narrative, clear language that the bill does not purport to interfere with federal decisions about whom to detain or remove, or with the operational control of aircraft, but instead establishes standards for Maryland actors to identify and respond to health and legal needs of individuals on enforcement flights.

These clarifications will help align the bill with the State’s recognized authority over health, safety, and professional regulation, while reducing the risk of confusion or unnecessary resistance from agencies that are understandably sensitive to federal–state boundary questions.

### **Ensuring the bill applies to all Maryland airports**

Although public attention has understandably focused on Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, enforcement flights can be staged at any public-use airport in Maryland, including county-owned facilities such as Hagerstown Regional Airport. The protections created by this bill should follow the detained people at risk, not be limited to a single state-owned facility.

As I read it, most sections of the bill are drafted broadly and can be interpreted to apply to any Maryland airport and any Maryland-regulated contractor. However, one subsection (subsection (C) on page 5) refers specifically to BWI. To avoid any doubt or loophole, I respectfully recommend that the committee:

- Either replace the specific reference to “Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport” with a more general phrase such as “any public-use airport in the State,” or
- Add a clarifying sentence such as: “For purposes of this subsection, ‘airport’ includes any public-use airport owned or operated by the State, a county, or a municipality.”

A change along these lines would make the bill’s statewide applicability unmistakable and prevent a scenario where enforcement flights are simply shifted to county-run airports to avoid these protections.

### **Voluntary forms, who handles them, and how data is protected**

Another recurring concern has been practical: Who distributes and collects the forms? Are the forms voluntary or mandatory? What happens to the data? These are important implementation questions that can be answered in ways that both protect individuals and make the bill easier to administer.

I urge the committee to:

1. Affirm voluntariness. Clarify that any health or attorney-contact forms contemplated by the bill are voluntary. Completing a form should not be a condition of transport, release, or access to services. This reduces the risk of coercion and aligns with basic principles of informed consent and due process.
2. Designate appropriate personnel. Specify that, wherever feasible, forms should be distributed and collected by designated ground-side personnel or contracted health/legal liaisons—not by federal officers or flight crew. At airports that host enforcement flights, that will often mean charter-side vendors, fixed-base operators, or on-site medical providers who already have defined relationships with the State or the airport authority.
3. Establish clear data custody and privacy protections.
  - Assign custody of completed forms and related records to a clearly identified state-regulated entity (for example, an appropriate state agency, an ombuds office, or a designated health/legal partner), rather than leaving them in a generic “airport operations” category.
  - Provide that the information is treated as confidential health/legal information, with access limited to those who need it to provide medical care, ensure legal access, or respond in emergencies.

- Limit disclosure to circumstances necessary for emergency response, hospital treatment, or legal representation, and require appropriate safeguards against unauthorized sharing.

These refinements would respond directly to administrator concerns about who is responsible for data, how privacy will be maintained, and what operational steps are expected of them.

### **Including charter-side operations and vendor contracts**

A further practical gap relates to the way enforcement flights often operate at Maryland airports. These flights may use a separate charter terminal, with a distinct vendor handling fueling, ground handling, cleaning, and other services through a different entrance and different workers than the main commercial terminal. If the bill's protections are limited—intentionally or accidentally—to the commercial side of airport operations, they will miss many enforcement flights altogether.

To address that risk, I recommend that the committee:

1. Explicitly state that the bill's requirements apply to charter operations and to any charter-side vendors that operate under contract with or under the authority of the Maryland Aviation Administration or any local airport authority.
2. Direct the relevant agency (likely MAA, potentially in coordination with another state entity) to report back before the next session on the implementation of these requirements in charter operations, including any barriers and recommendations for further statutory clarification.

This approach recognizes that charter operations are structured differently from scheduled commercial flights, but still ensures that the bill's protections follow the detained people most at risk, wherever enforcement flights are staged.

### **Why this bill remains worth passing now**

Some have asked whether, if enforcement flights can shift between airports—BWI, other Maryland airports, or facilities in neighboring states—it is still worth Maryland's time to set strong standards for flights that operate here. My view is yes, for at least three reasons:

1. Maryland retains a responsibility to the people who are transported through its territory, regardless of where other states or federal facilities may choose different standards.
2. Clear, state-level expectations can help guide how Maryland agencies and airport partners respond when they are asked to support enforcement flights, reducing ad

hoc decision-making and the fear-driven assumption that “there is nothing we can do.”

3. As other states and jurisdictions grapple with similar questions, Maryland can contribute a concrete, rights-respecting model for how to protect health and legal access around enforcement flights while respecting legitimate federal authority.

This bill is not the last word on what Maryland might ultimately do with respect to contractors, fixed-base operators, and other airport tenants. But it is an important, targeted step that the General Assembly can and should take this session, and it should clearly apply across all Maryland airports where enforcement flights may operate.

### **Conclusion**

For all of these reasons, I urge the Committee to give House Bill 0639 a favorable report with clarifying amendments that:

- Anchor the bill firmly in the regulation of Maryland-licensed and Maryland-contracted actors;
- Clarify the voluntariness of forms, designate appropriate personnel for distribution and collection, and specify data-custody and privacy protections;
- Ensure that charter-side operations and vendors are clearly covered; and
- Make explicit that the bill’s protections apply at all public-use airports in Maryland, whether owned or operated by the State, a county, or a municipality.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work to protect the health, safety, and rights of people who pass through Maryland’s airports on enforcement flights. I am happy to provide any additional information that may be useful to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Cornet, Ph. D.

On behalf of: The Frederick County ICE/BWI Coalition (The Democracy Action Team of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, Indivisible Frederick, Indivisible Frederick Forward, Washington County Indivisible)

[Robert.Cornet@CornetCommunicationsCounsel.com](mailto:Robert.Cornet@CornetCommunicationsCounsel.com)

240-315-3981

# **aviation bill testimony senate 2 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Steve Metalitz

Position: FWA

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Testimony in Support of HB 639, Aviation Health and Safety Act

February 19, 2026

I urge the Committee to report favorably HB 639, the Aviation Health and Safety Act. I also suggest a few amendments to improve the bill.

My name is Steve Metalitz. I am a lifelong Marylander and have lived in Silver Spring for the past 30 years. I am also an experienced air traveler, including through BWI Marshall Airport.

I am not a doctor (I am a retired attorney), but it takes no great medical expertise to know that to sit motionless during long airplane flights (of which I have taken many) creates numerous health risks. It stands to reason that these risks are exacerbated when airline passengers must fly in shackles and similar restraints. [This article](#) quotes a forensic pathologist that such practices are “dangerous on so many different levels.”

An increasing number of flights pass through Maryland’s airports carrying people who are shackled and otherwise restrained and thus subject to these serious risks. Some (though not all) of these flights involve the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. In 2025, there were 87 ICE flights from/through BWI; in 2024 there were none.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, we face an escalating risk environment for restrained passengers in our airports. If the State can take reasonable steps to reduce these risks and to facilitate response to any medical emergency that could occur, I strongly believe, as a concerned citizen, that it should do so. Furthermore, as a taxpayer, I consider it irresponsible for the State to fail to take these steps and thus expose itself to potentially serious legal liabilities.

The Aviation Health and Safety Act embodies the reasonable risk-reducing steps that are called for. It is carefully crafted to focus on the provision of aviation-related services over which the State has authority, minimizing the risk of federal pre-emption. It requires that the health status of restrained passengers be documented so that if a medical emergency arises, our State’s first responders and medical personnel will be best positioned to offer life-saving care. It specifically requires that restrained passengers be deplaned during refueling of aircraft, when the need for immediate evacuation would otherwise be at its height. In short, it mandates minimally intrusive regulation to protect the health and safety of restrained individuals passing through our airports and to reduce legal risks to the State.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ICE-Flight-Monitor-US-Immigration-Enforcement-Flights-Report\\_Dec2025.pdf](https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ICE-Flight-Monitor-US-Immigration-Enforcement-Flights-Report_Dec2025.pdf)

While I strongly urge a favorable report on the legislation, I also suggest a few technical improvements for the Committee's consideration, all relating to the new Section 5-107:

A. Language of Form:

Many detained individuals are not English speakers and cannot be expected to accurately complete a form in English. The Administration should be required to prepare the forms in a range of languages.

B. Number of Forms:

The inspection required should include not only the presence of completed forms on board the aircraft, but also that the number of completed (including waived) forms corresponds to the number of detained individuals on board.

Additionally, the report required in subsection (G) should include the number of completed (including waived) forms on board each aircraft. This will both ensure compliance and also provide transparency into the volume of detained individuals being transported through the airport.

C. Enforcement:

Penalties should be provided for an FBO or aviation service company that fails to conduct an inspection and/or file a report, and, to the extent feasible, for an entity whose flight crew fails to distribute and collect the forms.

D. Scope:

To clarify that the section applies to flights using a Maryland airport other than one operated by the Administration, the definitions of "airport" and "airport facility" in 5-101(f) and (g) should be incorporated by reference.

E. Drafting issues:

- a. Does the "detained individual" definition need to exclude restraints such as seatbelts or child travel seats?
- b. Page 3, line 19: add "and appropriate medical personnel" as persons with whom the forms can be shared (e.g., after the person has been transported to a hospital)
- c. Insert "completed" before "form" on page 3, line 25. (The presence of blank forms is not sufficient.)

Thank you for considering my views on this important legislation.

**2026 2\_12\_2026 MD HB 639 A4A comments.pdf**

Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough

Position: UNF



## Airlines for America®

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February 12, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
Transportation and Environment Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
250 Taylor House Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### Re: Maryland House Bill No. 639

Dear Chair Korman:

Airlines for America (A4A) is the trade association for the leading U.S. airlines.<sup>1</sup> We advocate on behalf of our members to shape crucial policies and measures that promote safety, security and a healthy U.S. airline industry. We write to respectfully oppose House Bill No. 639 (HB639) and to request an unfavorable report. The Federal government exclusively governs the services of air carriers and the regulation of air carrier services proposed in HB639 is Federally preempted.

As currently proposed, HB639 would regulate the airlines' services, whether directly or through our service providers, including forms required on aircraft, flight crew obligations, inspections of airlines' aircraft, who may contract with airlines for air transportation services, fueling for air transportation, and the treatment of passengers.

When Congress deregulated the airline industry in 1978, it included a provision to "ensure that the States would not undo federal deregulation with regulation of their own."<sup>2</sup> Specifically, the ADA provides that the U.S. government exclusively governs air carriers' prices, routes or services—"a State, political subdivision of a State, or a political authority of at least 2 States may *not* enact or enforce a law, regulation or other provision having the force and effect of law *related to* a price, route or *service* of an air carrier that may provide air transportation . . ."<sup>3</sup> In sum, state regulation relating to airline services, such as HB639 is unenforceable against air carriers. Accordingly, we request that HB639 be withdrawn.

We also note, as a reminder, that the State of Maryland is already obligated to "comply with all applicable Federal laws" as an assurance for its Federal grant agreements.<sup>4</sup> The State's failure to comply with the Grant Assurances could lead to a loss of tens-of-millions of dollars in FAA capital grants.

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<sup>1</sup> See A4A's members are Alaska Air Group, Inc.; American Airlines Group, Inc.; Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.; Delta Air Lines, Inc.; FedEx Corp.; JetBlue Airways Corp.; Southwest Airlines Co.; United Airlines Holdings, Inc.; and United Parcel Service Co. Air Canada is an associate member.

<sup>2</sup> *Morales v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.*, 504 U.S. 374, 378 – 379 (1992).

<sup>3</sup> 49 U.S.C. § 41713 (emphasis added). In alignment, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the ADA has a "broad preemptive purpose" and any state law having "a connection with, or reference to, airline 'rates, routes, or services' is preempted under the ADA." *Morales v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.*, 504 U.S. 374, 383–85 (holding that the ADA preempted state regulation of airline disclosures and advertising); see *American Airlines, Inc. v. Wolens*, 513 U.S. 219, 229 (1995) ("States may not seek to impose their own public policies or . . . regulation on the operations of an air carrier."). See also *Air Transp. Ass'n of Am. v. Cuomo*, 520 F.3d 218 (2d Cir. 2008) (recognizing and enforcing exclusive Federal jurisdiction, enjoining New York from implementing or enforcing New York State's Passenger Bill of Rights because it regulated airline prices, routes and services).

<sup>4</sup> FAA, *Assurances, Airport Sponsor* (Apr. 2025) available at [https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant\\_assurances/assurances-airport-sponsors-2025](https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_assurances/assurances-airport-sponsors-2025)

Comments of A4A re: MD HB 639  
February 12, 2026  
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We appreciate you considering this request. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at [jsaltzman@airlines.org](mailto:jsaltzman@airlines.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JMS', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joshua M. Saltzman  
Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs  
Airlines for America

CC:

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

# **HB 639\_SB 505\_ Transportation - Aviation - Passen**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

**HB 639/SB 505:** Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act): Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Environment and Transportation Committee and Finance Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 639/SB 505**, concerning *Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)*.

While passenger health and safety are unquestionably important, **HB 639/SB 505** raises significant concerns regarding state overreach into an area that is already heavily regulated at the federal level. **Aviation safety standards, aircraft operations, and passenger health protocols are primarily governed by federal authorities to ensure uniformity across states. Creating additional state-level mandates risks regulatory conflict, duplication, and operational confusion.**

**Air travel is inherently interstate in nature. A patchwork of differing state requirements could impose compliance burdens on airlines, increase operational costs, and ultimately result in higher ticket prices for Maryland travelers.**

Consistency in aviation regulation is critical for maintaining efficiency, safety, and reliability within the national air transportation system.

Additionally, imposing new state-specific requirements may place Maryland airports at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states, potentially impacting tourism, commerce, and business travel.

**Public health and safety should certainly be safeguarded, but policy solutions should be coordinated within existing federal frameworks rather than layered on in a way that creates uncertainty and added expense.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 639/SB 505**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

**HB0639 - LOC - MAA - Transportation - Aviation - P**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Concern – House Bill 639 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 639 but respectfully offers the following concerns for the Committee’s consideration.

If adopted, HB 639 would require the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) to develop a form to be used for any passenger on an aircraft that is a “detained individual,” defined as “a passenger who is traveling involuntarily or while being held in any kind of restraint.” The form is to collect information about the detained individuals medical and legal history, among other things. Completing the form would be voluntary and copies of the forms are to be kept on board each aircraft. In case of an emergency, the forms are to be provided to emergency responders or hospitals. The bill also requires the flight crews on each aircraft to distribute and collect the forms. Before providing any service to an aircraft, each fixed base operator or aviation service company are to inspect aircraft to confirm that the forms are maintained on each aircraft. The bill also requires the fixed base operator or aviation service company to compile a report on this information.

Additionally, HB 639 would prohibit a person, which includes the State and a unit of State government, from entering into a contract, grant, or other agreement with an airline that transports detained individuals unless the airline provides evidence of a valid warrant issued by a federal or State court, a valid court order, or the Governor’s authorization of the extradition of the detained individual to another state. Separately, HB 639 prohibits MAA from entering into a contract, grant, or other agreement with a fixed base operator or an aviation service company that services airlines that transport detained individuals through the Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI Marshall) airport unless the airline provides evidence of a valid warrant issued by a federal or State court, a valid court order, or the Governor’s authorization of the extradition of the detained individual to another state. Finally, the bill would prohibit an aircraft from being refueled if an individual on board the aircraft is in any kind of restraint and requires certain conditions to be met if the individual is removed from the aircraft during refueling.

The Moore-Miller Administration is opposed to the federal government’s use of BWI-Marshall for the operation of deportation flights. That said, the national airspace system, airline operations, and access to airports are governed by federal law. Specifically, 49 U.S.C. § 41713(b), commonly referred to as the Airline Deregulation Act, preempts state and local governments from regulating a carrier's routes, services, or operations. Pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant

The Honorable Marc Korman  
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assurances, BWI Marshall is prohibited from discriminating among qualified, certificated air carriers or restricting duly authorized flight operations. See 49 U.S.C. § 47107.

While MAA has broad authority to perform any action or adopt rules and regulations to perform its duties and carry out the laws it is charged to administer, such actions must be consistent with the State and federal Constitution, law, and regulations. As a result, airport operators, including those overseeing commercial airports like BWI Marshall, do not have the authority to intervene in operations of airlines based on the nature of their operations, provided those airlines comply with federal safety, security, and operational requirements. This includes charter services, even when conducted on behalf of federal agencies. The regulatory framework is intentionally designed to ensure a uniform, federally managed aviation system across the country.

In addition to issues of legal pre-emption, MAA must remain in compliance with federal grant assurances included in the FAA grants. In general, when airport owners or sponsors, planning agencies, or other organizations accept funds from FAA-administered airport financial assistance programs, they must agree to maintain and operate their facilities safely and efficiently and in accordance with specified conditions. The assurances may be attached to the application or the grant for Federal assistance and become part of the final grant offer or in restrictive covenants to property deeds.

By accepting federal funds for airport projects, MAA has assured the FAA it will “make available all of the facilities of the airport developed with Federal financial assistance and all those usable for landing and takeoff of aircraft to the United States for use by Government aircraft in common with other aircraft at all times without charge ... .”<sup>1</sup>

If the FAA determines that the bill violates FAA grant assurances, MAA may lose access to federal funding. Currently MAA has \$300 Million in federal funds included in its six-year capital plan. Additionally, there could be a ripple effect on State revenues due to the provisions of the bill

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 639.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090

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1 Airport Sponsors Assurances, Part C(27), (2025), [https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant\\_assurances/assurances-airport-sponsors-2025](https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_assurances/assurances-airport-sponsors-2025).