



Uber Technologies, Inc.
1725 3rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94158
uber.com

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
The Honorable Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 0786 – Transportation of Persons With Disabilities - Transportation Network Companies - Requirements – FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I would like to begin by thanking Senator Guzzone for sponsoring this important legislation. SB 786 represents a vital step toward modernizing Maryland's paratransit system to better serve residents with disabilities while ensuring fiscal responsibility for Maryland taxpayers.

Under the current system, paratransit fleets often operate at capacity, leading to leaving Maryland residents stranded for hours at a time waiting to be picked up by their service. SB 786 provides the tools to manage peak demand and reduce missed trips. Traditional paratransit trips cost the MTA approximately \$64.41 per trip. Shifting just 20% of these trips to a TNC-supplemented model could save the State \$24 million annually.

It takes a forward-thinking approach to explore these regulatory updates to make these changes that save the tax payer money and modernizing this framework positions Maryland alongside other innovative, large-scale agencies like WMATA and MBTA that have successfully utilized Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to drive down costs and reduce rider wait times.

SB 786:

- removes certain administrative requirements designed for direct employees while mandating comprehensive annual background screenings.
- These annual checks meet some of the highest security standards in the transportation industry.

This model is being used by over 18,000 residents in Maryland already through the WMATA program. Meanwhile, Pennsylvania similarly has a program which also reduces wait times and saves costs. The current framework has great intentions but is costing the tax payer millions of dollars, while preventing paratransit customers from being picked up from their dialysis appointments in a timely manner. already



successful in neighboring jurisdictions like D.C. and Pennsylvania—Maryland can provide more efficient, reliable, and cost-effective transit for those who need it most.

I respectfully urge a FAVORABLE vote on SB 786.

Jon Kuehn
Head of Partnerships
UberTransit