

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0505 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

**Chair Pamela Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee**

February 18, 2026

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance Committee: My name is Jennifer Hess. I have lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for almost 30 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. For these reasons, I support SB0505. Thank you for your consideration.

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