



March 6, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 947 – Maryland Transit Administration Reform Act

Dear Chair Beidle:

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute is proud to be Maryland's designated federally funded University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service. The mission of the MCDD is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities through four core functions: interdisciplinary preservice training, continuing education and training; community services and technical assistance; research and evaluation; and product development and information dissemination. The MCDD is advised by a diverse Community Advisory Council (CAC) composed of more than 50 percent individuals with disabilities or family members and leaders from State agencies and organizations committed to improving the lives of Marylanders with disabilities.

The MCDD appreciates the inclusion of “at least one member who represents riders with accessibility challenges” in both the Baltimore Core Transit Service Board and the Commuter Services Advisory Board within Senate Bill 947.

Transportation continues to be a significant barrier for individuals with disabilities due to inaccessible public transit options, limited cross-county transportation, the financial burden associated with travel, and the inconsistency and unreliability of scheduled paratransit services.

An individual with lived experience can provide practical insight into how transit systems function in real life, identify existing barriers, and highlight challenges that may not be visible to planners or administrators. Their active participation within the community brings firsthand expertise that strengthens decision-making.

We value the meaningful inclusion of individuals with disabilities as this bill and its goals advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen van Stone".

Maureen van Stone, Esq., MS
Assistant Vice President & Director
Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
Kennedy Krieger Institute