

SB0505 Aviation H & S.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Manuel

Position: FAV

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 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
301-742-4121

SB0505 - 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 SB0505 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

2/18/2026

TO: Chair Pamela Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Ayla Hurley

Chair Beidle and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Ayla Hurley, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB0505, 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 SB0505 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 SB505 Transportation - Aviation _ Passen

Uploaded by: Carolyn Matthews

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable SB0505 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Dear members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Carolyn Matthews, and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I am writing in support of **SB 0505 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety**.

Thank you to Senator Lam for co-sponsoring this important legislation.

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. **SB 0505** is one of the many bills before the legislature that will establish protections for all people, regardless of citizenship status.

I support **SB 0505** 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 **SB 0505**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB0505_Aviation_Health_and_Safety_Act_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0505

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Lam

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0505 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.

SB505 Brocht FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Chauna Brocht

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

I am offering favorable testimony in support of SB505 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 S505

Sincerely,

Chauna Brocht

District 43A

Baltimore, MD 21218

Chris Apple - SB0505 - FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Apple

Position: FAV

Chris Apple
6385 Windharp Way
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

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

2/18/2026

TO: Chair Pamela Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Chris Apple

Chair Beidle and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Chris Apple, I live in Columbia, Maryland, and I am writing to support SB0505, 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 SB0505 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 on SB 505 Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Yuan

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Christina M. Yuan, MD offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 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 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB505**

Christina M. Yuan, MD

Zip code: 20708

Test SB 505 MD.pdf

Uploaded by: Cynthia Sokolow

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation
Health and Safety Act)**

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow, offer favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

Restraining people when 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 as well as crew at risk.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB505**.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Sokolow
21042

Testimony SB505 – Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Eileen Singleton

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and
Safety Act)**

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

I am writing to offer favorable testimony in support of **SB505 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505.**

Eileen Singleton
Ellicott City 21042

SB505-Zeller-Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Eileen Zeller

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 505:
Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)
Senate Finance
February 18, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

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

I support SB505 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 SB505.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Zeller
12808 Brighton Dam Road
Clarksville (District 9)

Written Testimony on SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Ellen Hornstein

Position: FAV

Written Testimony on SB505

Aviation Health and Safety Act of 2026

Ellen Hornstein

Resident of District 19

Member of Indivisible Montgomery's Steering Committee and Third Act Lawyers' Coordinating Committee and Co-Lead for Lawyers Defending American Democracy's Maryland and DC Meeting the Moment Initiative

I strongly support SB505, Aviation Health and Safety Act.

This bill would ensure that any detainee flights passing through Maryland airports show that they are keeping their passengers safe by:

- De-boarding during re-fueling.
- Securing documentation about the medical conditions of each person on board in the event of an emergency.
- Requiring documentation for any minors on board.
- Requiring attorney information for any passenger being transported in shackles.

These are very basic safety precautions that are not being taken on ICE flights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miller Testimony on Senate Bill.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Miller

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill SB505 – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health
and Safety Act)**

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee:

Emily Miller offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

My name is Emily Miller, and I live in Baltimore City, 21218. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. I moved to Baltimore in 2024. Since my move, I have been impressed and proud by the kindness and investment of my neighbors in making our communities stronger and safer. It is important that as a state we strive to protect our neighbors in Maryland and for anyone who passes through our airports. In 2025 there was 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505**

- Emily Miller, 21218

TESTIMONY FOR SB0505.pdf

Uploaded by: Gita Lefstein

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB 0505 – Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 16, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, 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 SB0505, 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 SB0505.

Thank you.

Hailey Jordan - Testimony for SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Hailey Jordan

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)
Finance Committee
February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee,

Hailey Jordan offers favorable testimony in support of SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

My name is Hailey Jordan and I live in Baltimore, MD 21217. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in flights transporting detained individuals, alongside deeply concerning reports about conditions on board. Flight attendants have issued public letters describing planes being refueled while detainees remained restrained on the aircraft, despite this being extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported it would have been impossible to evacuate a plane quickly during these flights. There appears to be minimal oversight and inadequate safeguards to protect the health and safety of those being transported. No matter someone's legal status, basic aviation safety standards should apply to every human being on board an aircraft.

This is why we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act, where everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies, medical conditions, and current medications. Minors must be documented, with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are not extraordinary measures, but rather basic requirements when overseeing the transportation for a large group of people. The fixed based operator or aviation service company is, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and need to demonstrate they take this responsibility seriously.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB505 and affirm that no instrument of the government is above upholding safety and human dignity.

Hailey Jordan
Baltimore, MD 21217

SB505.favorable.idaKenna.pdf

Uploaded by: ida kenna

Position: FAV

Testimony on SB505 - Favorable

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

Senate Finance Committee

Hearing date: February 18, 2026

From: ida kenna, Baltimore City, MD 21218

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing a favorable testimony in support of SB505 on behalf of the Greater Baltimore Democratic Socialists of America, as our chair of our Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy Working Group and our Sanctuary Maryland campaign.

We've recently seen flight attendants bring attention to the danger that people trafficked on detention flights are put into. Kept in shackles. Without necessary healthcare information, medication, or care providers. Children without guardians. Law enforcement officers trafficking them as they see fit, no real oversight by the entity responsible for our airports, the Maryland state government.

Marylanders have passed numerous reforms to improve the health and safety conditions and restrain the violent enabling of law enforcement. While there are many areas that could use improvement, I believe that if most Marylanders knew the risk, discomfort and duress that prisoners are put into in the process of being transported, most especially by plane when they are the only passengers denied the freedom of mobility necessary to respond to emergencies, I think most Marylanders would oppose the current lack of regulation. The public airports of the State of Maryland should uphold Maryland values of basic human rights. I urge you to vote to give the Aviation Health and Safety Act a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Testimony on Senate Bill_SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Hagan

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee:

Jeffrey Hagan offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Jeffrey Hagan and I live in Bel Air, 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB505**

Jeffrey A. Hagan
21015

Hess - SB0505.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Hess

Position: FAV

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.

Jennifer Hess
1910 Luzerne Ave.,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-563-6180
jenny.c.hess@outlook.com

FAVORABLE SB0505_JeredEbenreck.pdf

Uploaded by: Jered Ebenreck

Position: FAV

FROM THE DESK OF

Jered Ebenreck

February 16, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Jered Ebenreck offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Jered Ebenreck and I live in Calvert County. 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report on S B505**

Thank you for your time,

Jered Ebenreck, jebenreck@icloud.com

sb0505-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeremy Gottwig

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill SB0505 — **Favorable**

SB0505 — Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

February 16, 2026

To Honorable Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Hayes and Committee Members

From Jeremy Gottwig

My name is Jeremy Gottwig of District 12A. I am a parent, a union member, a Howard County resident, and I believe that all restrained people on board flights leaving Maryland (and everywhere else) should be treated humanely. We have heard horrifying reports of mistreatment of innocent migrants on deportation flights by DHS, and I appreciate Maryland's efforts in countering these atrocities. To be frank, I can't conceive of a reason not to vote for this legislation.

Therefore, I respectfully urge passage of this legislation (SB0505).

Support human rights by default.

And I would like to offer special thanks to my Senator, Senator Lam, for sponsoring this legislation.

BRRN Favorable SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Jesse Reilly

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Baltimore Rapid Response Network offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Jesse Reilly and I live in District 40 in Baltimore. 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505**

Jesse Reilly, 21211

Testimony SB 505- Aviation Health and Safety Act -

Uploaded by: Jim Caldiero

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony

SB 505 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act) FAVORABLE REPORT

To: Sen. Pamela Beidle, Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Finance Committee
From: Jim Caldiero, Lead Advocate for Immigration,
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Date: February 18, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony IN FAVOR of **SB 505 - 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, contrary to my beliefs, and, frankly, overkill. 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 info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd 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>

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

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.twitter.com/uulmmd

SB505 testimonyFeb162026.pdf

Uploaded by: Jodi Beder

Position: FAV

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Jodi Beder offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 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 Senators Lam and Feldman for their sponsorship of this bill.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505.**

Jodi Beder, Mt Rainier, MD 20712

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0505.pdf

Uploaded by: Judy Karasik

Position: FAV

**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 16, 2026

Chair Beidle and members of the Senate Finance 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 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. 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.

SenateBill#0505.transportation safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Julie Solomon

Position: FAV

Date of Hearing: February 18, 2026
Julie Robin Solomon
Baltimore, MD 21231

TESTIMONY ON SB0505 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Sen. Pamela Beidle; Vice Chair, Sen. Antonio Hayes; and Members of the Finance 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#0505, 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 SB#0505 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 SB#0505. Thank you for all your hard work to protect us at this treacherous moment in our country's history.

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health

Uploaded by: Kaelin Delaney

Position: FAV

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaelin Delaney and I am a Maryland resident and homeowner. I am offering favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**.

There is an increase in the number of flights carrying incarcerated people from and through the state of Maryland right now. This bill would make sure they are treated humanely and can be addressed appropriately in the case of a crisis—whether that is a medical emergency or a problem on the flight. It would require appropriate medical and other forms for all incarcerated people on flights, including the many minors who are now being transported without their guardians through Maryland airports.

While I am grateful I have never been in a position where I have been incarcerated for a long period, I have spoken to many people who have. It is an extremely difficult process, and can be very scary if you are transported across state lines in unsafe conditions. If a passenger is physically restrained, in the event of an emergency on the plane they would need to rely on the kindness and awareness of others to take care of their needs. If there isn't appropriate paperwork in place, flight staff might not even be aware of the situations, medical conditions, and potential support their passengers might need.

This is of particular concern right now, because many people in our country are being transported on planes in direct violation of judicial orders or without judicial approval and moved into detention centers in states far from their families. There is currently not enough legislation preventing these types of things, and not only does it cause harm to families, it is opening up both private companies and many states to potential lawsuits and other harm. This bill would go a long way towards addressing some of these issues, even if it wouldn't prevent them altogether.

For these reasons, I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on **SB505**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kaelin Delaney
Upper Marlboro, MD
20772

SB 505 FIN D4CC fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Kate Sugarman

Position: FAV



Testimony on SB 505 - Favorable

SB 505 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Senate Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, and Members of the Committee,

Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland chapter offers favorable testimony in support of SB 505 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).

Doctors for Camp Closure is a non-partisan organization of over 2,200 physicians and health care professionals from all specialties who oppose inhumane detention. We advocate for humane and just treatment for all.

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 state, we have a moral, and arguably legal, responsibility to reject participation in inhumane processes to the greatest degree possible—and to demand that we in the medical profession have the tools to instead act as healers.

For these reasons, Doctors for Camp Closure Maryland urges the committee to provide a favorable report on SB505.

Kate Sugarman, MD

Doctors for Camp Closure co leader

Potomac MD

Written Testimony - SB0505.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathryn Little

Position: FAV

Written Testimony

Bill: **SB0505**

Position: **FAV**

February 16, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, and Members of the Committee:

As a concerned Maryland citizen, I am in favor of SB0505 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 Senate Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Little
881 W Lombard St
Baltimore, MD 21201

SB505.favorable.LauraAtwood.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Atwood

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill - Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)
Finance Committee

Hearing date: February 18, 2026
From: Laura Atwood, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laura Atwood, I'm a longtime Maryland resident, and I am testifying today from a healthcare perspective. As an inpatient physical therapist with a clinical doctorate, I've spent my career focused on the interplay between mobility 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.

I often tell my medically vulnerable patients: "One of the most dangerous things you can do is lie in bed (excessively)." (For them, risks 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.

I therefore urge the committee to make a favorable report on SB505. Thank you.

Testimony SB505-FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie Liskin

Position: FAV

Testimony on House Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)
Finance Committee
February 19, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Finance Committee

Indivisible HoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 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.

SB505 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

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

Testimony FOR SB0505 Girdner.pdf

Uploaded by: Linnie Girdner

Position: FAV

Testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

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

My name is Linda Girdner and I live in Gambrills, MD. I am in support of **SB505 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 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 Senate Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505 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

Test - SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Bromfield

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill SB505

Finance Committee, February 18 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, members of the Committee

I, Lisa Bromfield, a MD citizen offer favorable testimony in support of SB505 Transportation – Aviation – Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

My name is Lisa Bromfield, I am an RN and a Unitarian Universalist and I live in Middletown. I am very favorable to this proposed bill. There have been very alarming reports about safety violations and inhumane conditions on flights of detainees . Flight attendants wrote open letters indicating that planes were refueled with passengers still on board which is extremely dangerous. Numerous people reported there would be no way to safely evacuate the planes and there is little oversight.

We need the Aviation health and Safety Act requiring that everyone who is transported must have medical forms indicating allergies or medical conditions, as well as what medications each are taking. As I am sure you are aware, missing even one dose of some medications can have terrible health consequences.

Minors must be documented with information about their guardians if they are unaccompanied. These are basic requirements when overseeing transportation for a large group of people. The aviation service company is, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and needs to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB505

Lisa Bromfield

Middletown, MD, 21769

Testimony SB 505.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 609 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 609

TESTIMONY FOR SB0505_ Safety of Transportation.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Enagonio

Position: FAV



Admin Team
Email: info@ibbmd.org
Liz Enagonio
Jasmine Gollup
Amy Stevens
Carriann Petersen

TESTIMONY FOR SB0505
Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senators Lam and Feldman

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Indivisible Bowie and Beyond (IBBMD)

Person Submitting: Liz Enagonio, co-founder

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony **in favor of SB0505** 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.

SB0505, 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 SB0505** and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB505 Aviation Health and Safety.pdf

Uploaded by: Loreen Heinz

Position: FAV

SB505 written testimony final.pdf

Uploaded by: Marcia Coe

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – FAVORABLE
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, and Members of the Committee

My name is Dr. Marcia Coe and I am a resident of Leonardtown, MD in St. Mary's County. 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 where planes were refueled while detainees were still on board, despite the danger. 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 should be responsible for the well-being of all detainees on board and prove they take this responsibility seriously.

I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB505**

Marcia Coe, MD
Leonardtown, Maryland
20650

testimony SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Cullen

Position: FAV

**Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and
Safety Act)**

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Mary Cullen and I live in Baltimore City I am very favorable to this proposed bill. Any detainee flight that lands in Maryland must take measures to make sure the passengers are safe. This should include:

- de-boarding during re-fueling
- securing documentation about the medical conditions of each person on board in the event of a crisis
- requiring documentation for any minors on board
- requiring attorney information for any passenger transported in shackles.

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 SB505**

Mary Cullen
21214

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Nooria Ahmed

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Nooria offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)**

My name is Nooria Ahmed and I live in Baltimore. 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a **favorable report on S B505**

Nooria Ahmed, 21218

SB505 FAV testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Fanning

Position: FAV

Testimony for SB505 (FAV)

Submitted by Patricia Fanning, 9438 Macomber Lane, Columbia MD 20145

ptrcfnnng@gmail.com or 443-691-8212 (mobile)

Aviation Health and Safety Act

Senate Finance Committee

Feb. 16, 2026

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Committee:

Since 2021, as a resident of Columbia, MD, I have been a part of an interfaith refugee ministry that helps resettled Afghan refugee families. These are people who worked with the Americans and had to flee when U.S. forces left Afghanistan that year. Some of our families have adult children, husbands, fathers, and other family and friends who are still trapped there, or in other countries. Changing policies here in the U.S. are making our new neighbors frightened for themselves and their families, many of whom remain in dangerous situations.

Our interfaith volunteers are trying our best to reassure them, while transporting them, introducing them to congregants in our houses of worship, or with them in other gatherings to provide services. Now that federal immigration policies have changed, and are changing almost daily, we are worried that our friends who made it here to safety would suffer needless additional fear because they would know ICE is utilizing BWI for deportation purposes.

Because many of our new friends worked with the Americans in Afghanistan, they were threatened, harmed, and/or harrassed by local authorities. We want them to think of the government here as friends, not foes. Knowing that the State of Maryland bans use of BWI for ICE flights will show them the confidence and kindness they deserve.

Immigrants, those with current valid immigration documentation and those without, deserve our protection whether they are from Afghanistan or elsewhere. For many of us, it's a matter of faith. We simply don't turn away those in need. Our faith communities are already praying and helping, but we need our state legislators to help us. Please issue a FAVORABLE report for SB505. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fanning, member

Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry

2026 SB0505 Testimony Ateto.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip Ateto

Position: FAV

Dear Senate Finance 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 SB0505- 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.

Testimony in support of SB0505 - Aviation Health a

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

02/18/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0505 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance 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 SB#/0505, 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: ¹

- 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 SB#/0505.

¹ Google AI Search “what occurred during deportation flights in Maryland”

Support_for_HB679_SB505.pdf

Uploaded by: Riley Bauer

Position: FAV

To the Maryland House and Senate,

I'm writing to express my **strong support** for Senate Bill 505 / House Bill 639 - Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Every person in the united states is due dignity and compassion. I don't care if they're a citizen or residing in the country illegally. I don't care if they're a free person or incarcerated. If they're incarcerated, I don't care what their crimes were. When I say every person, I mean *every person*.

We need to keep ICE and other law enforcement agencies accountable while in our great state. Mandating collection of information from detainees, and enforcing that businesses are operating with maximum guarantees that all passengers on these flights are safe, is critical to making sure that everyone is given the fullest extent of that dignity and compassion.

I applaud delegate Charkoudian, and senators Lam and Feldman, for pushing for the legislation. We need more people like them to help make the world a safer place

Sincerely,

Riley Bauer
14545 Brown Rd.
Sabillasville, MD 21780
MDState@mail.herdeskworking.com
814-212-3350

SB505 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Samia Lalani

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable
SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

Samia Lalani offers favorable testimony in support of **SB505 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB505.**

Samia Lalani
Baltimore, MD 21218

SB505Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Fiscarelli-Mintz

Position: FAV

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

I offer favorable testimony in support of SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act).

My name is Sarah and I live in Baltimore County. I am very favorable to this proposed bill.

This legislation establishes the basic safety and medical standards necessary when transporting large groups of detained people. By requiring documented medical forms, allergy information, and medication lists, SB 505 ensures that aviation service companies can respond to emergencies and protect the well-being of those in their care. Furthermore, it provides essential protections for minors by ensuring they are documented and linked to their guardians.

Aviation companies must be held accountable for the safety of every passenger. Beyond physical safety, the mandatory collection of individual medical records ensures that transport providers acknowledge the specific health needs of every passenger. By replacing bulk processing with individualized documentation, this bill forces personnel to engage with the humanity of those in their care, fostering a culture of accountability and more humane treatment.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on SB505.

Sarah, 21152

SB505-testimony-SDavis.pdf

Uploaded by: Shannon Davis

Position: FAV

Testimony on Senate Bill – Favorable

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee:

Shannon Davis offers favorable testimony in support of SB505 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 Senate Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on SB505.

Shannon Davis
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

SB0505_fav_mascioli.pdf

Uploaded by: William Mascioli

Position: FAV

SB0505- SUPPORT
William Mascioli
2021 Luzerne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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301.404.7490

SB0505—Transportation-Aviation-Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act)

Senate Finance Committee
February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, 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 SB0505, the Aviation Health and Safety Act.

As we all know, since early 2025 there has been a huge increase in flights carrying detained persons. Reports about the conditions on board are alarming. Among other things, planes have been refueled while detainees in restraints were on board. This is obviously extremely dangerous, as safe evacuation of the plane in such circumstances would be impossible.

This is just one reason that we need the Aviation Health and Safety Act. It would require that every person being transported have medical forms indicating allergies or other medical conditions and any medications being taken. Detained minors must be documented, with information about their guardians. Finally, and significantly, the Act prohibits refueling while any person on board is in restraints.

It is all too clear these days that many people are being improperly detained, but even where detentions are entirely proper, there is no excuse for disregarding the safety of the detainees.

Accordingly, I urge a favorable report on SB0505, and thank you for your consideration.

Berger SB 505.pdf

Uploaded by: Zackary Berger

Position: FAV

SB505 Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety (Aviation Health and Safety Act) - Favorable

Finance Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hays, Members of the Committee

I am a primary care physician who treats undocumented people in terror of ICE abductions. Airline flights pose known risks to those detained, especially those shackled on ICE flights: shackles can increase risks of blood clots and pain.

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-base operator or aviation service company is, in effect, responsible for the wellbeing of all detainees on board, and needs to prove they take this responsibility seriously.

This is why I urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue **a favorable report on S B505.**

Zackary Berger MD PhD

21218

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SB0505.pdf

Uploaded by: Robert Cornet

Position: FWA

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0505 WITH AMENDMENTS

Before the Senate Committee on Finance

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Submitted by: 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)

Position: Support with Amendments

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, 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 immigration detention and deportation operations in and through Maryland. I am writing in strong support of SB 0505, with targeted clarifying amendments to make the bill more workable for administrators while better protecting people who are transported on ICE deportation flights.

Purpose and importance of the bill

This legislation addresses a narrow but urgent problem: people being moved for deportation on flights using Maryland airports often have serious medical needs, ongoing legal claims, or other vulnerabilities, yet there is no clear, state-defined process to identify those needs or ensure that they are communicated to the appropriate professionals before an individual is put on a plane. The bill seeks to create basic, practical protections—like access to medical and legal screening and standardized forms—so that no one is placed on a deportation 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 for deportation.

Clarifying what the bill regulates – “on the ground,” not immigration policy

Some concerns have been raised about where Maryland’s authority begins and ends in the highly federalized context of aviation and immigration enforcement. It is crucial to underscore that this bill does not attempt to tell the federal government whom to deport, whether to deport, 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 deportation 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 immigration 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 remove or with the operational control of aircraft but instead establishes standards for Maryland actors to identify and respond to health and legal needs.

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, deportation or transfer 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 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 deportation 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 medical 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 medical/legal liaisons—not by federal immigration officers or flight crew. At airports that host deportation 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 medical/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 deportation 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 deportation 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 people most at risk, wherever ICE chooses to stage its flights.

Why this bill remains worth passing now

Some have asked whether, if deportation flights can shift between airports—BWI, Dulles, Reagan, or federal facilities such as Joint Base Andrews—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 deportation 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 deportation operations 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 deportation flights may operate.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, I urge the committee to give SB 0505 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. 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

240-315-3981

aviation bill testimony House .pdf

Uploaded by: Steve Metalitz

Position: FWA

Senate Finance Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 505, Aviation Health and Safety Act

February 18, 2026

I urge the Committee to report favorably SB 505, 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.¹

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.

¹ 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.

SB505 - A4A Testimony - UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough

Position: UNF



Airlines for America®

We Connect the World

February 12, 2026

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

Re: Maryland Senate Bill No. 505

Dear Chair Beidle:

Airlines for America (A4A) is the trade association for the leading U.S. airlines.¹ 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 Senate Bill No. 505 (SB505) 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 SB505 is Federally preempted.

As currently proposed, SB505 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."² 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 . . ."³ In sum, state regulation relating to airline services, such as SB505, is unenforceable against air carriers. Accordingly, we request that SB505 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.⁴ 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.

¹ 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.

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

³ 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).

⁴ FAA, *Assurances, Airport Sponsor* (Apr. 2025) available at https://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/grant_assurances/assurances-airport-sponsors-2025

Comments of A4A re: MD HB 505 and SB 639
February 12, 2026
Page 2 of 2

We appreciate you considering this request. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at jsaltzman@airlines.org.

Sincerely,

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

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

CC:

Senator Clarence Lam
Senator Brian Feldman

MDStatevAveloBWI.pdf

Uploaded by: Valerle Leonard

Position: UNF

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to insist that since BWI is a state-owned airport, we the people should have a say in ensuring that our airport is not used to disappear members of our community, separate families, and violate human rights. And as such, that BWI is state-owned, it should not facilitate ICE's abhorrent and lawless actions. Avelos's contract with BWI must be terminated.

Thank you,

Valerie Leonard

SB0505 - LOC - MAA - Transportation - Aviation - P

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 17, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Concern – SB 505 – Transportation - Aviation - Passenger Health and Safety
(Aviation Health and Safety Act)***

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 505 but respectfully offers the following concerns for the Committee’s consideration.

If adopted, SB 505 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, SB 505 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, SB 505 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 Pamela Beidle
Page Two

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”¹

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 Senate Bill 505.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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