



Testimony on SB 199
Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act
Position: FAVORABLE

To the Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee,

My name is Brig Dumais, and I am a Political Organizer with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. 1199 is the largest healthcare workers union in the country. We represent 10,000 hospital and long term care workers in Maryland alone. Our union supports SB199, the Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act because many of our members rely on public transportation.

For far too long, MTA has not been properly funded, resulting in neglected maintenance of buses, light rail, subways, and trains breaking down. This puts riders' safety at risk contributes to poor service, that ultimately leads to a drop in ridership with makes MTA's funding crisis even worse. Without additional funding for MTA to maintain its vehicles and provide better service, this negative spiral will continue.

1199SEIU members save lives on the frontlines of the COVID19 pandemic. Their ability to provide high quality care for millions of Marylanders is often negatively impacted by unreliable public transportation. Many of our members have no "grace period" for tardiness, which leads to them being disciplined if they are only one minute late to work. Healthcare workers must arrive on time every day, not only for their job security but additionally for patient care.

The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be set at a level that allows MTA to address all of the maintenance needs identified and get the public transportation system back into a state of good repair so it can operate more reliably. We strongly encourage the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report on this bill.

Thank you for reading our testimony. Respectfully,

Brig Dumais
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