



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SB 199 Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson – Co-Presidents

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports SB 199 believing in the importance of maintaining current infrastructure for the benefit of all Maryland residents. Our positions clearly state that an integrated transportation system should be efficient, safe, clean, and accessible; all with a lens on equity for all residents.

Maintenance of a public transportation system isn't glamorous, glitzy, or attention getting. This bill won't promote ribbon cutting or bragging rights. It's a nuts-and-bolts bill that aims to get the job done; it maintains what the Maryland public has already paid for. To allow any state service, let alone our transit services that directly benefit residents, to decay is not in the public interest.

The state of Maryland, counties, municipalities and very few private entities provide essential transportation links for residents to employment, healthcare, schools, and necessary places. Transit links were assessed in the "Capital Needs Inventory" and there are specifics as to what exactly needs to be fixed or maintained within the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) system. MTA provides access to services in many counties of the state and not just central Maryland. Heavy rail, light rail, and buses are essential and not a luxury for our transportation options in all forms of commerce as well as the everyday lives of residents.

In our positions, we support the use of mass transit for environmental reasons, equitable issues, reduction of energy consumption, as well as economic concerns. Maintenance of a healthy transit system enhances all of Maryland.

LWVMD strongly urges you to vote favorably on SB 199.