



The Harford Center, Inc.

"Serving the needs of Harford County adults with developmental disabilities since 1961."

March 3, 2022

Re: Bill: House Bill 1019: Education – Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair McIntosh, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 1019, which would place funding for the Statewide Specialized Transportation Assistance Program (SSTAP) on a more sustainable basis and provide protection from the continuing cost increases we face in providing community transportation.

I am the Executive Director of a day habilitation program for adults with disabilities who rely on transportation to get to and from work, medical appointments, social activities, and to visit loved ones and friends. My agency supports over 100 Harford County residents who are all disabled and approximately 15% use a wheelchair.

Without the transportation provided by this program, the participants of the Harford Center would not have access to affordable, flexible transportation outside of the program hours. The drivers and dispatchers who provide and schedule my trips are dedicated and conscientious, but I know that their resources are stretched. The timing is not always convenient, and delays occur. I am concerned that this service, so important to the life of our participants, will deteriorate without a sustained increase in support.

I fully support and strongly urge a favorable report for House Bill 1019's efforts to increase support for the mobility of the senior citizens and disabled persons in my community.

Sincerely,

Sherry Nolte, LCSW-C
Executive Director
The Harford Center, Inc.

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