



# MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Senate Finance Committee

January 26, 2022

SB 23: Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses

Position: Support



8601 Robert Fulton Dr  
Suite 140  
Columbia, MD 21046

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 23.



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Reliable and effective transportation is crucial for people with disabilities to participate in various aspects of daily life. The availability and accessibility of public transportation continues to serve as a significant barrier for people with disabilities to access and participate in employment, education, healthcare, and other community and social activities.

### WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill establishes the Commission on Transportation Equity to make recommendations and help develop policies that ensure the State transportation system is equitable. A member of Disability Rights Maryland will serve on the Commission.
- It would require that equity be a primary consideration in the development of State transportation plans and goals.
- It also requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to conduct transit equity analyses prior to the announcement or proposal of major transportation service changes.



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### WHY is this legislation important?

- It places a thorough and long-term lens onto one of the most critical issues facing people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities rely on affordable, accessible public transportation to access resources, such as: urgent health services, food and other groceries, employment, and social and educational advancement opportunities.



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Equity in transportation is an important disability rights issue. It is critical for people with disabilities and their ability to contribute economically, socially, and politically. Affordable transportation options for people with disabilities remain an ongoing challenge. More efforts must be made to ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable and reliable transportation.



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**The DD Coalition supports SB 23 because it is a critical step to increasing access to public transit for people with disabilities in Maryland.**

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