

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MARYLAND SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022 AT 1 PM

SENATE BILL 23

– EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – Stipend for Commissioners

Presented by Anne Arundel County NAACP

Senate Bill 23 is a powerful start to achieving equity in transportation by establishing a Commission on Transportation Equity. We would add that the work of these commissioners should not be volunteer given the encumbersome, yet important tasks at hand involving annual reporting requirements. A stipend of \$5,000 - \$15,000 seems appropriate.

There are many citizens, for example in South County, of Anne Arundel County, Maryland who need adequate and accessible transportation to make court appearances. There are other citizens in the county who previously relied on transportation, but stopped because of the infrequency in scheduling. Who wants to wait an hour for public transportation.

Then there are equity coalitions forming or already formed to address the need for equity in transportation for such ideas as a Light Rail line from Thurgood Marshall Airport to Annapolis.

We sincerely hope ideas of this magnitude are not stifled but move forward with the participation of this new Commission on Transportation Equity.

The Anne Arundel County NAACP urges the passage of this important piece of legislation.

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