



**516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

January 11, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee 2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 208 – Criminal Law - Assault of a Public Transportation Service Provider – Penalties**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

Transit Choices fully supports Senate Bill 208, as it relates to the purpose of increasing the penalties for intentionally causing physical injury to certain individuals providing public transit services; and generally relating to penalties for assault.

Senate Bill 208 would increase the penalty for voluntarily causing physical injury to bus, train, or light rail operators or any other individuals providing public transportation services. A person who intentionally causes physical injury is guilty of the felony of assault in the second degree and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

Transit Choices recognizes and appreciates the dedicated men and women who operate our buses, light rail, metro subway, MARC, and mobility vehicles for their hard work and dedication to public safety and world-class customer service. These individuals are essential workers who provide access to schools, jobs, medical care, and healthy food – particularly for those that are most dependent on it and lack access to a car.

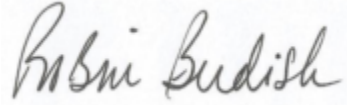
Public transit operators are facing a growing rate of assaults. In the past several years, there has been a dramatic increase in the level and intensity of senseless attacks on transit operators. We feel the direction of anger or frustration at people who are doing their jobs and operating our transit systems is completely unacceptable.

Any assault committed against our operators is abhorrent and should be treated with the same severity as assaults against other front-line workers. The increased penalties in Senate Bill 208 will serve as a strong deterrent to any individuals considering violence against our operators. A victory will make it clear that the state of Maryland truly values the essential nature of their work.

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For these reasons, Transit Choices respectfully requests that the Committee grant Senate Bill 208 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Robin Budish  
Director  
410.528.8696