

People on the Go of Maryland



Senate Bill 511

Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023

Establishing the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program for hospitals to coordinate transportation provided by a nonprofit organization to or from medical services for eligible individuals; repealing a certain cap on the amount of grants that may be awarded by the Maryland Transit Administration under the Maryland Senior Rides Program; requiring the Governor to provide \$1,000,000 annually for the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program in the State budget beginning in fiscal year 2025; etc.

Position: Support

February 22, 2023

Sponsored by Senators Ellis and Hester

Assigned to Finance and Budget Taxation

Written by Cody Drinkwater

Public Policy Assistant - People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable Chairperson and members of the Finance and Budget Taxation Committee,

People on the Go of Maryland (People On the Go) the statewide self-advocacy organization ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) offers this written testimony in support of SB 511, Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023. This act establishes the Rural Non-emergency Medical Transportation Program for hospitals to coordinate transportation provided by a nonprofit organization to or from medical services for eligible individuals; repealing a certain cap on the amount of grants that may be awarded by the Maryland Transit Administration under the Maryland Senior Rides Program; requiring the Governor to provide \$1,000,000 annually for the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program in the State budget beginning in fiscal year 2025; etc. Transportation is a serious issue in Maryland, especially for people with disabilities who live in rural areas that cannot afford to travel to cities with hospitals. Non-emergency hospital visits are important as emergency visits because maintaining health and

preventing diseases like cancer are incredibly important to potentially high risk individuals with disabilities. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and we encourage a favorable report.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Cody Drinkwater.

Best regards,

Cody Drinkwater
Public Policy Assistant
People on the Go of Maryland