

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0511 – Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk:

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 511. Through our Transportation Committee, the Chamber has been working with community stakeholders and transportation providers to improve transportation access in Allegany County.

Allegany County, like many rural communities, has limited transportation options for those who do not have access to a reliable automobile. While public transportation exists, the existing fixed route service offers limited hours of operation, has inadequate reach in the most rural parts of our county, and can be difficult for those with disabilities and seniors that may have mobility issues and need door-to-door services or assistance with mobility aids. Cabs or other ridesharing services are limited and costly, but we know that reliable and affordable transportation access is essential to meet one's health and medical needs essential to daily living and quality of life.

While we supported the original Senate Bill 511, which established the Rural Nonemergency Medical Transportation Program, we have reviewed the amendments and will support the efforts as outlined. We support enhancing these services with a State Coordinating Committee that addresses the needs of the transportation-disadvantaged.

For these reasons, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce strongly urges your support of Senate Bill 511.

Sincerely,



Courtney Thomas-Winterberg
Transportation Committee Chairwoman



Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Health and Government Operations Committee