



March 12, 2024

**Senate Finance Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Transportation – MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements – Study

My name is Jason Woody and I am the Executive Director of B'More Clubhouse, a nonprofit mental health organization in Baltimore City. Our organization works with adults experiencing serious and persistent mental illness to focus on recovery through work. Through an integrative psychosocial recovery approach, our members access long term recovery support that assists them with obtaining employment, education, and housing, in addition to daily structure and socialization.

The majority of B'More Clubhouse members rely on MTA MobilityLink for their daily transportation needs. It is a critical service that unfortunately many of our folks find unreliable. Our members are frequently left wondering when or even if their rides will show up. This causes them undue stress on a routine basis. It is also common that B'More Clubhouse ends up covering the cost of an Uber/Lyft ride for members whose Mobility ride is extremely late (or never showed up). This of course presents a cost burden to our organization, which operates on a very limited budget.

MTA Mobility is a great service but in our opinion has failed to live up to reasonable expectations in terms of reliability. So on behalf of B'More Clubhouse I would like to offer our enthusiastic support of this legislation that would support a MobilityLink Service Improvements Study. I would also like to thank Senator McCray for his leadership on this important issue. Thank you.