



## Testimony in Support of House Bill 130

### Maryland Transit Administration – Workgroup to Study Dedicated Bus Lanes in Baltimore City

TO: Chair Barve and members of the  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
FROM: Demaune Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore  
DATE: February 7, 2019

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) is in favor of House Bill 130 as a means to support our students who use MTA as a primary means of transportation to and from school. This bill would establish a workgroup to study dedicated bus lanes in parts of Baltimore where all Middle and High School students who live more than 1.5 miles from their school receive a One Card for use on the MTA.

A 2017 report estimated that 6 out of 10 Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) high school students rely on public transportation to get to school (approx. 13,000 students at the time of the publication).<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the report found that high school students' commutes are likely to be more complicated than the average trip of a public transportation user, estimating that 2 out of 3 (68%) high school students will need at least one transfer to get to school.<sup>2</sup>

Family League supports bill language that identifies, "one youth Baltimore City resident who regularly uses mass transit." We would encourage amendment language that indicates this youth be a student in the BCPS system, to further increase the input and guidance of youth who are commuting to school via public transportation.

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League's mission is to serve as an architect of change by promoting data-driven, collaborative initiatives and aligning resources to create lasting outcomes for children, families and communities. This work is guided by the State's Child Well-being Results Areas. We support HB 338 in particular due to its alignment with the eighth result area by working to ensure that "Children are Successful in School,"<sup>3</sup> particularly given the potential to reduce absenteeism and truancy.

*For more information contact Matt Quinlan, Public Policy Manager: [mquinlan@familyleague.org](mailto:mquinlan@familyleague.org)*

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<sup>1</sup> Baltimore Education Research Consortium, (2017). *Getting to High School in Baltimore: Student Commuting and Public Transportation*. <http://baltimore-berc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/GettingtoHighSchoolinBaltimoreJanuary2017.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Governor's Office for Children. "Maryland's Child Well-Being Scorecard." <https://goc.maryland.gov/reportcard/>