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February 9, 2015

Proposed S.B. No. 834: AN ACT CONCERNING THE 9 TOWN TRANSIT SYSTEM.

Introducer(s): Senator Art Linares, 33rd Dist.

I am writing on behalf of the greater than 250 individuals with disabilities that live along the shoreline and daily use the 9 Town Transit bus system for their means of transportation. These individuals are members of Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center. They are adults with disabilities who live in the shoreline towns which 9 Town Transit serves. These individuals are independent and successful in work and life within the local communities and participate in social and recreation activities due to the fact that they can access reliable transportation. Greater than 85% of these individuals do not drive and rely on the public transit system to work, go to medical and other necessary appointments, shop and recreate. They need less intensive services from the nonprofit human service system as a result of their ability to get around the shoreline independently. 9 Town Transit is the lynch pin of their independence.

I am writing in support of SB 834. Enactment of this bill would allow greater flexibility on the part of the transit system and improve the on time performance which is necessary for the adults that use the system. Punctuality and on time performance must be addressed in order for Vista members to arrive to work on time. Additionally, there is limited capacity on the current buses with riders frequently having to stand and sometimes not be able to get on the bus. This is an unreliable situation that must be addressed and can be rectified with this bill.

Vista is in the business of providing services and resources to help individuals achieve personal success and greater independence. Providing the necessary resources and legal framework for a vibrant and thriving public bus system along the shoreline is imperative for our future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen K. Bosch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Helen K Bosch, M.S.  
Chief Executive Officer

Vista Vocational & Life Skills Center, Inc.

[www.vistavocational.org](http://www.vistavocational.org)

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