

Testimony Supporting H.B. 7166: An Act Concerning Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, honorable ranking members and members of the committee, my name is Drew Szarka and I am a resident of Danbury CT. I am submitting testimony today to respectfully request that the committee SUPPORT HB 7166: An Act Concerning Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for Medicaid Beneficiaries.

The Veyo service has been overall hit or miss in my experiences. They had been on schedule about as many times as they were late for their scheduled arrival, and many times I have had to call and confirm that I was getting picked up at all. On one occasion, my ride was over 45 minutes late when I called to be sure I had a ride home. I was assured that as soon as they could get someone to fill the initial driver's vacancy, they would call me. Over the next hour, I had to call two more times, had a car finally arrive to pick me up and then immediately let me out, because another car further away had formally responded to my need for a driver, which extended my wait time another 25 minutes. Another time no one showed up at all to pick me up with no advanced notice.

I was facing a severely low point in my life that I was receiving services for, services that I would miss the full benefit of when rides were late or did not show up. I also had a sister at home that I would take care of, and make meals for, which became harder the longer I had to wait to get back to her. Having a service that operates on schedule, as needed, could have made a difference.

Thank you for your time and support on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Drew Szarka

Danbury, CT, 06810