**Hearing Details:**

* [The hearing is](https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4682) **[Wednesday, September 20, at 9am!](https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4682)** [Click here for the Hearing Details page.](https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/4682)
* The hearing is **hybrid** – you can testify in-person in Room A-2 at the State House, or online via Microsoft Teams. It will also be livestreamed on the State House website.
* You **MUST** register no later than **Monday September 18 at 5pm** in order to testify virtually at the hearing – [**Register here**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfE1WR1s7GHE1I0PU8XwbgrwHNAw-R3UjIDdMyLsnA_VO2tEw/viewform). If you are testifying in person, it is **highly recommended** that you pre-register by the deadline as well.
	+ **Same day sign-up for in-person testimony ONLY – IF TIME ALLOWS:** Registration for in-person testimony is permitted on the day of the hearing by signing up to speak on forms provided by committee staff outside of the hearing room. Time permitting, when all pre-registered individuals have been called to testify, the Chairs will then call any individuals who sign-up on the day of the hearing.
* If you need help registering, contact Kay at kays@bostoncil.org or at 617-821-4394
	+ Even if you are not sure whether you will be able to provide oral testimony on that day, we encourage you to sign up!
* If you have accessibility needs, fill out this [form](https://malegislature.gov/StateHouse/AccessibilityForm?hearingId=4682) or contact Kay.

**Testifying In-Person:**

* **We encourage you to come to the state house to testify in person if you can**, because having lots of people in one room supporting the same bill can make a big impression on the committee. Of course, we know that’s not possible for everyone, and having a remote option makes it more accessible, so please testify virtually if that’s what works best for you!
* If you’re testifying in person, the hearing is in **Room A-2**. The accessible entrance to the State House is located on the side of the building on Bowdoin Street and there is a ramp leading to the door. You can check in at the guard shack to the left of the Ashburton Park Entrance, which is closed for renovations through Fall 2023. If you're using The RIDE, you should use the Capitol Coffee House at 122 Bowdoin Street as the drop-off point. This is across the street from the Bowdoin Street entrance.

**Testifying Remotely:**

* The virtual platform for giving testimony is **Microsoft Teams**. If you’ve registered, you should receive an email after 5pm on Monday September 18th with instructions on how to join the Teams call, and you can likely join by phone if Teams itself doesn’t work for you.
	+ It is highly recommended to download the Microsoft Teams app to your device before the hearing.
* People testifying virtually will likely be called after people testifying in-person. If you have time constraints, let Kay know at kays@bostoncil.org or at 617-821-4394, and/or reach out to the committee to ask if you can be called earlier (no guarantees that they will, though).

**Preparing Oral Testimony:**

* Each person has **3 minutes** to give oral testimony.
	+ A 3-minute speech is about 400-450 words for the average speaker, but everyone speaks at different speeds, so practice out loud at home and time yourself.
	+ If you feel you have more to say than you have time for, remember you can submit a longer version as written testimony. Written testimony can be submitted up until the bill is voted out of committee – see below for instructions.
* Focus on your personal story, including the details and how it impacted you. See below for a sample template.
* If you would like help writing or practicing your testimony, or coming up with ideas for what to say in it, please reach out to Kay Schoucair:
	+ Kay, Boston Center for Independent Living: kays@bostoncil.org or 617-821-4394

**Preparing Written Testimony:**

* Written testimony is accepted until the committee takes action on the bill. We don’t know when that will be, but hopefully very soon, so try to submit your testimony as soon as possible!
* Write your testimony. If you need help, see below a template you can fill in. Please fill out the bracketed sections.
* Send your testimony to the Joint Committee on Public Health.
	+ Use this as your subject line: **Public Health Committee** **Testimony in Support of S.1434**
	+ You can put your testimony in an attached .doc or .pdf document, or in the body of the email.
	+ Email your testimony to **JointCommittee.PublicHealth@malegislature.gov**.
		- Cc your state legislators on the email. You can find your legislators and their emails by going to <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>.
		- Bcc kays@bostoncil.org so we can keep track of who/how many people have submitted testimony.
* If you need someone to email your testimony to the committee on your behalf, or if you have any questions about what to write in your testimony, please reach out to Kay Schoucair.
	+ Kay, Boston Center for Independent Living: kays@bostoncil.org or at 617-821-4394

**Examples Of Stories People Have Told That Could Be Included In A Testimony:**

1. “One day while I was taking a PT-1 ride to my medical appointment, the driver didn’t secure my wheelchair like he was supposed to. When he suddenly swerved to avoid a crash, I fell and found myself hitting the sides of the vehicle, with my head bouncing around the van’s floor. I was in excruciating pain and couldn’t move my legs at all. I ended up being hospitalized for several days and needing intensive rehab. Till this day, I still suffer from this incident.”
2. “I once had to book a PT-1 ride from an eye appointment at Mass Eye and Ear to my house. I had told the dispatcher that the driver would need to find me as my eyes would be dilated and I’d be using a cane. Despite this, the driver asked me to find him instead! I had to spend a couple of minutes trying to figure out where the driver was until he finally found me.”
3. “I often get picked up late. Once the driver arrived so late that I had to miss an important medical appointment which I had been waiting months for. I had to wait several months before I could be admitted again while my health deteriorated. This bill would help ensure that the service is reliable and safe for people with disabilities across the Commonwealth.”

**Oral Testimony Template:**

Thank you, Chairs and Vice Chairs for the opportunity to speak today in support of S.1434,“An Act Establishing the Human Service Transportation (HST) Consumer Advisory Board”.

My name is [Name] and I live in [Town]. [Add a sentence or two about your disability and your usage of/need for HST transportation]. Here are some questions to answer: What is your disability? How long have you been using HST or PT-1? Why do you use HST or PT-1?]

[Spend about a minute and a half telling your story! Here are some prompts you can use:

* Write about a time you had to wait for a driver who showed up significantly late or who never showed up, and whether it caused you to miss your appointment.
* Write about a time the driver failed to secure you or your wheelchair properly.
* Write about a time you felt like your safety was put at risk due to dangerous driving, driving under the influence, inappropriate treatment or being harassed, etc.
* Write about a time when you sent in a complaint about the service you received and never heard back, or a time when the resolution was unsatisfactory.

Whatever story you choose, answer these questions: What happened? What was the experience like for you? What were the consequences of the experience on your mental and physical wellbeing? What would it take for your trust in the service to be restored?]

S.1434 will prevent me and others from having an experience like this [Add a sentence or two about why the disability community needs this bill. You can use the bill’s fact sheet to explain how this bill would improve the quality of service and your quality of life. One example is that having an HST advisory board led by consumers would address the safety, reliability and quality of the service]

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my experience, and the experiences of my community. I urge you to vote S.1434 favorably out of committee. Thank you.

**Written Testimony Template:**

[Date]

Joint Committee on Public Health

**Support for an Act Establishing the Human Service Transportation (HST) Consumer Advisory Board**

**S.1434 (Sen. Susan L. Moran)**

Thank you, Chairs Cyr and Decker, Vice Chairs Oliveira and Kerans, for the opportunity to write today in support of Senate Bill 1434, otherwise known as “An Act Establishing the Human Service Transportation (HST) Consumer Advisory Board”.

Paragraph 1: Introduction

My name is [Name]. I appreciate the opportunity to express my strong support through written testimony.

[1-3 sentences about your disability and usage of/need for HST transportation. Here are some questions to answer: What is your disability? How long have you been an HST or PT-1 user? Why do you use/need HST or PT-1?]

Paragraph 2: Story (you can do more than one story! Put each new story in a different paragraph)

[2-6 sentences about an experience you had. Here are some prompts you can use: Write about a time you had to wait for a driver who showed up significantly late or who never showed up, and whether it caused you to miss your appointment. Write about a time the driver failed to secure you or your wheelchair properly. Write about a time you felt like your safety was put at risk due to dangerous driving, driving under the influence, inappropriate treatment or being harassed, etc. Write about a time when you sent in a complaint about the service you received and never heard back, or a time when the resolution was unsatisfactory.

Whatever story you choose, answer these questions: What happened? What was the experience like for you? What were the consequences of the experience on your mental and physical wellbeing?]

Paragraph 3: Connect your story to the bill

 [1-4 sentences about why the disability community needs this bill. You can use the bill’s fact sheet to explain how this bill would improve the quality of service and your quality of life. You can say for example how S.1434 will prevent you and others from having an experience like the one you had thanks to a consumer-led advisory board that would address the safety, reliability and quality of the service]

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

[Anything else about why this bill is important to you.]

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my experience, and the experiences of my community. I urge you to vote S.1434 favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

[Name] or/and [Organization]

[Home Address]

[Phone Number]