October 15, 2021

Dear (*Representative or Senator*)

In honor of the National White Cane Safety Day, I am reaching out to you for assistance with the dissolution of TD Tampa Bay, a transportation service in which (*I was a consumer or had friends who were consumers*). This line item, although small in comparison in the FDOT budget was eliminated. The program is still there but was not funded for multicounty use. It is no longer available to not only me but others with disabilities.

Transportation is necessary for the people of Florida, especially those of us with disabilities. Support from all over the state is needed to reinstate the funding for the TD Tampa Bay service.

My name is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*County*. (share if you are blind/legally blind/supporting friends or others in the disability community)

As you may or may not be aware, TD Tampa Bay which was a multi-county door to door Paratransit Service for the disabled, was discontinued July 1, 2021 through a line item veto by Governor DiSantis. This was serviced by USURV in Manatee, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Hernando Counties. Riders were charged $6.00 per trip between counties. Senate Bill 100 and Senate Bill 1126 also repealed the funding for M-CORES of which TD Tampa Bay received it’s funding grant.

I learned of TD Tampa Bay in (month) of (year), and it vastly opened my ability to (share how it benefited you or someone you know).

TD Tampa Bay also afforded (me and others) with visual impairments the opportunity to meet other blind friends for social gatherings in mutually central locations throughout the Tampa Bay area at an affordable cost. Uber and Lyft are much too expensive.

Because of TD Tampa Bay (share how you or another *specifically* benefited from TD Tampa Bay).

I am requesting your support to assist in advocating and locating the funds to reinstate this beneficial program as it not only enhanced the life of those who used it, but the businesses in Manatee, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Hernando counties. Traditionally, those who are sight impaired or have cognitive or physical disabilities which do not allow them to drive have limited transit options to travel between counties and limited income or earn considerably less than those who are not disabled. TD Tampa Bay afforded us a reasonable cost for transportation throughout the five counties to increase employment options for those with disabilities AND increased the amount of discretionary income to spend at the various businesses we frequent for lunches and shopping due to the availability and low cost or transportation. Everyone benefited, the local economy, the increase of employees for businesses and those of us with disabilities to participate more fully economically, socially, and with *increased* employment opportunities.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing how you can support reestablishing TD Tampa Bay transportation option, as a safe, valuable resource for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Address)

(Email)

(Phone)