



March 31, 2019

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Capitol Room 4032
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: SB 336 (Dodd) Transportation: fully-automated transit vehicles – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Dodd,

I am writing on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to support SB 336 (Dodd), a bill that would require the presence of at least one public transit worker on any fully-automated transit vehicle. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 270+ affiliated organizations.

According to the transit trade magazine *Metro*, there is general agreement that there will be a significant deployment of fully-automated transit vehicles within cities throughout the developed world by mid-century. These developments will particularly affect the many retired seniors, the elderly, and people with disabilities who rely on public transportation.

People with disabilities and frail elders riding public transportation or para-transit often rely on transit employees to help them on-board and off-board, a service that we expect and need. Frail elders and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to acts of violence and robbery. Their safety requires that these public transportation vehicles be staffed. Without staff on public transit vehicle, the dangers of these attacks would increase.

For these reasons, CARA supports SB 336 (Dodd), and we urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly,
Legislative Director
415-533-5244