

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Emanuel Chris Welch
Illinois House of Representatives
Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Representative Welch:

We, the undersigned organizations, represent professional taxi and rideshare drivers in Illinois. We are writing to ask you to consider the record of rideshare corporations such as Uber and Lyft and amend the bill you have sponsored, HB 4839 to provide for a one-year extension of the Transportation Network Providers Act instead of the five year extension as the bill is currently written.

Uber and Lyft's business model is based upon exploiting and misclassifying its own workers and destroying the livelihoods of its competitors. These corporations systematically evade responsibility for their drivers by classifying us as independent contractors. As a result, we have no right to basic worker protections like workers' compensation, paid sick leave or collective bargaining. Drivers are enticed with promises of flexibility and substantial earnings, then gouged with exorbitant lease rates while the companies take an ever-increasing cut of earnings. At the same time these billion-dollar corporations pay nothing into the state's unemployment or worker compensation funds. Rideshare corporations' predatory practices have also devastated the incomes of small taxi operators. Thousands of medallion owners have been driven to bankruptcy and foreclosure due to the double standards of state and municipal regulation.

Before these corporations get an extension of the legislation that authorizes their operation in our state we want a real investigation into the impact their business model is having on workers, consumers and our environment. They should not get another five-year pass. However, we all understand that the current crisis will not make it possible to fully debate a new policy direction during this legislative session. We therefore ask you to substitute a shorter, one-year extension of the Transportation Network Providers Act so that over the next year we have an opportunity to work together to develop a new approach to regulating rideshare that puts workers and consumers ahead of corporate profits.

Thank you for your consideration, we will follow up by phone in the next few days.



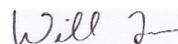
Mark Smithivas
Gig Workers Matter



Nnamdi Uwazie
Cab Drivers United



Eli Martin
Chicago Rideshare Advocates



Will Tanzman
Chicago Gig Alliance, People's Lobby