

On Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 11:49 AM Cynthia Schneider <cynthiaschneider0@gmail.com> wrote:

This email is written in support of this bill. I have mobility issues and no longer drive. Given my medical condition, I have been allowed to participate in meetings virtually under current law. Electronic meetings have allowed me to stay active and have a voice on issues I care about. While I am no longer a member of the Arlington Commission on Aging, I am an active member of several committees. I virtually appear as a representative of the COA at County Board meetings and other commission meetings. While I am allowed to attend these meetings virtually under the statute's exception clause, these committees have had a difficult time obtaining a quorum of in person members. We are all volunteers. Some, especially older persons, do not like driving to evening meetings. Others find it difficult taking time from their day or evening to drive to a meeting. In short, virtual meetings promote the democratic process and allow for greater participation.

The past 3 years of experience has shown that virtual meetings work well. This technology should be expanded and not restricted.

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