Good day, Chairperson Benson and members of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee. My name is Cathy Chin and I am here on behalf of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities. Thank you for the affording me this opportunity to speak to you on A4234 which requires New Jersey Transit to administer a program to adopt paratransit best practices, requires greater coordination among paratransit service providers, and establishes regional paratransit coordination councils.

ABCD is in support of this legislation. The people who envisioned and crafted it, are to be applauded. Affordable, reliable, efficient and user-friendly transportation will transform the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, unlocking opportunities in education, employment, health care, housing and community life. A significant next step in the struggle for civil rights and opportunity. My only request for consideration is that self-advocates be represented on the regional paratransit coordinating councils. After all, it’s their life and their transportation service.

Thank you.