

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0161 - VEHICLE LAWS - DRIVER'S LICENSES, LEARNER'S INSTRUCTIONAL PERMITS, AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman, and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 161 (HB0161) and respectfully requests a favorable report. With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS helps Marylanders in economic need, provides preventive services, and protects children and adults. We believe enacting HB 161 will remove financial barriers for customers in all three of our major administrations and lift up youth receiving our services to achieve greater independence.

House Bill 161 would benefit approximately 68,900 youth and young adults aged 15 to 20 who currently participate in programs administered by our Family Investment Administration (FIA). FIA administers means-tested programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) providing food and cash assistance to households whose income is below the federal poverty line. The cost for an identification (ID) card through the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration is \$15 for individuals under 18 years old and \$24 for those over 18.

House Bill 161 would further benefit participants in other DHS programs. Our Social Services Administration (SSA) serves 4,686 individuals aged 15 to 20, including young people who are in foster care or receiving an adoption or guardianship subsidy. Our Child Support Administration (CSA) serves 933 Marylanders aged 15 to 20, of which 847 are custodial parents and 86 are non-custodial parents.

ID cards are valuable forms of ID essential to employment. Removing the fees for our program participants would provide a simple step forward in the Moore-Miller Administration's plan to address child poverty.

If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,



Rafael López
Secretary