

RON WATSON, PH.D
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and Biotechnology



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 27, 2020

Testimony of Delegate Ron Watson

FAVORABLE REPORT for HB1036

Vehicle Laws – Commercial Motor Carriers – Safety, Maintenance, and Insurance Information
(James Cohran's Law)

Good Afternoon Chairman Brave and members of the Committee,

I urge the committee to vote favorable on HB1036. The purpose of this legislation is to require an employer to provide an USDOT number to prospective applicants interested in becoming a driver for their organization. This number provides a safety report of the company as well as insurance information of the trucks covered under the company. The information is crucial to prospective applicants during their hiring process and this bill ensures that prospective drivers have a background of the trucking company they plan to work for before they are hired.

I would like to introduce Jackie Cohran. Her son, James Parker Cohran, was driving for a trucking company, which prior to being employed, did not have knowledge of the USDOT number before applying to the company and after being employed. If James had access to this tool, it would certainly influence his decision in for working with this particular company. Ms. Cohran will shed light on the circumstances of her son's death and highlight how having access to the USDOT number would have changed her family's tragic outcome.

I strongly urge a favorable report on HB1036.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron L. Watson".

Delegate Ron Watson, Ph.D

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