



**Testimony in Opposition**

**HB1121 Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Registration Plates – Notation for Autism Spectrum**

**Environment and Transportation**

**March 3, 2022**

**By Ken Capone**

**Background: People On the Go Maryland builds community through diversity and inclusion. We respect the individuality of our members and are committed to making inclusion a priority so that everyone feels comfortable, valued, and heard. People On the Go remains distinct by maintaining a cross-disability strategy that focuses on effecting positive change in the lives of people with and without disabilities.**

**We are here to testify in opposition of HB1121 Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Registration Plates – Notation for Autism Spectrum for many reasons.**

**People On the Go has a membership of over 400 members across the state, and many are on the autism spectrum. We feel that this bill could have negative implications on people with autism. This bill doesn't just cover having a notation on your identification, but it also is creating a silo of one developmental disability over another. The disability community compromised on Senator Zucker's bill 2 years ago to give the MVA the resources to print a card that a person with a disability could keep on them or in their vehicle if they so choose to identify as a person with a disability.**

**HB 1121 can be an invasion of privacy. For example, some people with autism might only want certain people to know that they are on the spectrum and by putting a notation on one's driver license allows many people to know that a person is on the spectrum.**

**Will someone's vehicle insurance go up, or will the person even be able to get insurance if the insurance company knows that the person who is trying to get insurance is on the spectrum.**

**For safety reasons we oppose this legislation because if a person with a notation on his license/I.d. card needs to show their I.D. card to buy something, a stranger could see the notation on their I.D. Card and might think the person is an easy target for a crime.**

**Many organizations that support individuals and their families have developed tools to assist people with autism or other disabilities to self-disclose safely without having to do it on their state ID, driver's license.**

**We need more focus on the Ethan Saylor Alliance on Law Enforcement training to recognize if somebody is on the spectrum, having mental health issues, or even if somebody has a disability and is having a seizure and more.**

**For these reasons we oppose HB1121.**