

February 3, 2022

Maryland House of Delegates 6 Bladen St. Annapolis, MD. 21401

<u>Support with amendments / HB 426</u>: Vehicle Laws – Policies and Prohibitions Against Discriminatory Traffic Stops

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1400 plus members and fully support revising the state's laws while developing and implementing data collection programs around vehicle stops that include minorities and persons with disabilities.

Many of the children that we represent need the vital protections of the law in all aspects of their lives.

We have ways to identify our children that drive with bumper stickers, seat belt protectors, leaflets and through self-advocacy. Informing the officer during the traffic stop that they have a disability.

Our hope is that this data will improve new driver training, and interactions between teens / adults with disabilities, and the law enforcement community as a whole. With the intent and hope of improving officer training and developing improved policies that will aid officers in their interactions with drivers who have disabilities. And in the hopes that these interactions will be conducted in as safe a manner as possible.

Please support HB 426 with amendments to include persons with disabilities, and return a favorable report. Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo | <u>richceruolo@gmail.com</u> Parent, Lead Advocate and Director of Public Policy Parent Advocacy Consortium | <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentAdvocacyConsortium</u>