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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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TESTIMONY FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION

CHAIR MARC KORMAN
VICE CHAIR REGINA T. BOYCE

HOUSE BILL 478 – MOTOR VEHICLES – SCHOOL VEHICLE DRIVERS – MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

SUPPORT

February 15, 2024

Good afternoon Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce and members of Environment & Transportation Committee. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 478 – Motor Vehicles – School Vehicle Drivers – Medical Examinations. HB 478 changes the current State requirements for School Bus Drivers passing medical examinations from annually up to every two years. However, if a jurisdiction chooses to be more restrictive, they retain the ability to do so. HB 478 as HB71 unanimously (137 – 0) passed the House on March 2, 2023.

This change will align the State of Maryland with current federal requirements. In doing so, we will become more competitive in maintaining our school bus drivers in counties such as Garrett, Wicomico, and Worcester. These counties all border States with the proposed requirements already in place: Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia. This proposed change comes at a time when the MVA Medical Review Board allows the public to submit complaints, which are then prioritized by the MVA in conjunction with the local school board. Currently, the provision requires the signature of a physician certified by U.S. Department of Transportation. These physicians are not always accessible.

In Maryland amidst the current statewide worker shortages, particularly in education, we need our school bus drivers more than ever. HB 478 helps alleviate this post-pandemic shortage by removing a barrier to entry for prospective school bus-drivers and by lessening a burden on current ones.

For this reason, I am asking for a favorable report on HB 478. Thank you for your time.