



**Testimony in SUPPORT of *House Bill 707–
Vehicle Laws – Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator’s
Permits – Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric’s ID Law)*
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 13, 2025**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on justice, tolerance and equity. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC has a long history of prioritizing the needs and rights of people with disabilities. Since our agency’s inception in 1938, we have been committed to supporting policy measures to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and break down barriers to inclusion.

House Bill 707, known as Eric’s ID Law, would create a **voluntary** designation (butterfly logo) on a Maryland license, identification card, or moped operator’s permit for those with non-apparent disabilities such as intellectual and developmental disabilities. The purpose of the bill is to enhance the safety of people with disabilities and provide an additional resource for law enforcement and first responders, helping them recognize and respond appropriately to individuals with non-apparent disabilities during interactions.

HB 707 has addressed previous concerns including requiring expedited training for law enforcement so that all officers are aware of the new designation and learn how to interact with an individual with a non-apparent disability. Additionally, this version of the Bill specifies that the Maryland Vehicle Administration may **not** use this information as grounds for referral to the Medical Advisory Board, nor as part of a records request by insurance companies. By creating this **voluntary** designation, we strive to ensure the health and safety of individuals with disabilities and their families, prevent stigma, and protect against targeted victimization. For these reasons, we support House Bill 707.