



Maryland's First
Nationally Accredited
Sheriff's Office



50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Md. 20850
240-777-7000
240-777-7148 Fax

SHERIFF MAXWELL C. UY

February 11, 2025

VIA E-MAIL: jheanelle.wilkins@house.state.md.us

Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
131 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **House Bill 707 – Vehicle Laws – Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits – Notation of Nonapparent Disability**

Dear Delegate Wilkins,

I am writing to express and offer my support for the proposed "Eric's ID Law" that we expect will assist in the identification of individuals with "invisible disabilities" in circumstances where they may encounter law enforcement or first responders. As a law enforcement leader, I recognize the potential for misunderstanding between public safety professionals and individuals who may have physical, mental, and/or neurological conditions that are not visible from the outside but may limit or challenge their response during an encounter with law enforcement or first responders.

I have supported this proposed legislation in the past, and continue to support the 2025 version of the proposed law that contains additional enhancements – permitting feedback from the disability community on designation design, privacy protections and requiring the MVA to establish public outreach campaigns to inform the general public of the availability of this voluntary designation. Undoubtedly, allowing these persons to have a license, identification card or moped operators' permit with the designation of the invisible disability (i.e. autism, hearing impairment, etc.) will assist public safety members during encounters such as an unknown risk traffic stop, or other potentially volatile encounter. I applaud the efforts of Eric and Linda Carpenter-Grantham to address the safety concerns of these individuals with special needs and their interactions with law enforcement professionals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your steadfast efforts in advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Maxwell C. Uy, Sheriff

cc: Senator William C. Smith, Jr.