

HB0707_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/13/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0707 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0707, Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability (Eric's ID Law)

The word 'disability' might call to mind an image of someone who uses a wheelchair, crutch or other mobility devices. Why? Because these mobility devices are visual indicators that a person is disabled. But many disabilities are not visually discernible. In fact, the *majority* of disabilities are non-apparent. And yet, this kind of non-visible disability, known as a non-apparent disability, is a concept unfamiliar to much of the nondisabled population. Consequently, people with non-apparent disabilities face discrimination just as those who are visibly disabled do.

Some of the most common non-apparent disabilities are Alzheimer's, anxiety and/or depression, arthritis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Deafness, diabetes, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, post-traumatic stress disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder/attention deficit disorder (ADHD/ADD), traumatic brain injury, Usher syndrome, bipolar disorder, cystic fibrosis, and multiple sclerosis. ¹

This bill will ensure equal non ableist treatment of persons with non-apparent disabilities by both law enforcement officers, and in some cases, by members of the general public during interactions with people with this condition.

It will accomplish this goal by requiring that an original and renewal application for a license, an identification card, or a moped operator's permit allow an applicant to choose to indicate on the document the applicant's nonapparent disability. The process for notification to someone viewing those documents will be satisfied by requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that a certain license, identification card, or moped operator's permit include a notation of a nonapparent disability. It will increase public safety for non-apparent disabled individuals through requiring the immediate implementation of training for law enforcement concerning interactions with persons with nonapparent disabilities.

¹ <https://wid.org/non-apparent-disabilities-when-your-disability-is-not-visible/>

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The case for this bill, nicknamed “Eric’s Law” was spoken about by Eric’s mother in a story by WUSA TV.²

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. — The murder of [George Floyd](#) ignited conversation all over the world, and for one Maryland family, it also put the wheels in motion for a potential law.

After Floyd's death, Linda Carpenter-Grantham grew concerned about her 18-year-old son, Eric Carpenter-Grantham, in regards to being stopped by law enforcement. He has "high-functioning autism," an invisible disability. This led to Eric Carpenter-Grantham coming up with the idea to create [three logos](#) for people with invisible disabilities like autism, mental health concerns and hearing impairment.

We can honor this mother watching out for her son, and for other Marylander’s whose non-apparent disability can create a disadvantage, by passing this important bill.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0707

² <https://www.wusa9.com/article/life/heartwarming/get-uplifted/erics-id-law-individuals-with-invisible-disabilities-maryland/65-a1804283-c123-42fa-bc7a-958c0b7c1eea>