



February 13, 2025

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

POSITION: Support

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shari Bailey, and I am a mom of a child living with a rare syndrome, and a founder of a Maryland nonprofit called Laila's Gift. I write today in strong support of House Bill 707, also known as *Eric's ID Law*, a crucial step toward ensuring the safety and dignity of individuals with nonapparent disabilities.

As a parent of a child with Jacobsen Syndrome – I understand firsthand the challenges that arise when navigating public spaces, especially in interactions with law enforcement or emergency personnel. A person with autism, for example, may struggle with verbal communication, become overwhelmed in high-stress situations, or not respond in ways that authorities expect. Without an identifiable way to indicate this condition, such interactions can lead to unnecessary confusion or, worse, dangerous misunderstandings.

HB 707 empowers individuals to voluntarily disclose their condition in a way that can improve public safety. The notation on licenses and IDs will serve as a critical tool for first responders, helping them recognize when a person may need additional patience or specialized assistance. This is not just a matter of convenience—it is a matter of **inclusion, dignity, and protection**.

Furthermore, I strongly support the bill's **safeguards against misuse of this information**. By ensuring that individuals are not required to provide medical proof, and that this notation cannot be disclosed to insurance companies, the bill strikes an essential balance between privacy and accessibility.



As a parent, I want to know that our children will be safe and understood in interactions with police, emergency responders, or other public officials. HB 707 is a compassionate and common-sense measure that will make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of Marylanders.

I urge you to pass this bill and ensure that individuals with nonapparent disabilities receive the recognition and accommodations they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shari Bailey

Founder & CEO

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