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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0247 –
FAVORABLE

Motor Vehicles – Provisional Driver’s License Examinations – Unaccompanied Homeless Youths

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation 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#0247, Motor Vehicles – Provisional Driver’s License Examinations – Unaccompanied Homeless Youths

Two brothers with big dreams were among the more than 15,500 children identified as homeless in Maryland’s public schools last school year, 1.7% of the student body.¹

It is often difficult for homeless youth who have acquired their learner's permit to appear at MDOT to test for their drivers license in the company of an adult. That adult may be struggling to build the resources needed to remedy the homelessness of that youth. An ability to drive can be the difference in acquiring employment or education to the new driver or their family.

This bill will alter the period of time after which an unaccompanied homeless youth who holds a learner's instructional permit and is under the age of 19 years may take certain examinations for a provisional driver's license.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0247.

¹ <https://marylandmatters.org/2024/09/09/back-to-school-marylands-homeless-school-children/>