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### **House Bill 436 - Vehicle Laws - Medical Exemption for Enhanced Tinted Windows - Repeal of Time Limitation**

#### **SPONSOR TESTIMONY: Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (Favorable with Amendments)**

Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 436.

For many of us, driving is part of our daily routine. We may not think twice about the sunlight shining through our car windows—at most, it might cause us to squint or feel a little warm. But for some, that sunlight is more than just an inconvenience. It can trigger serious medical symptoms and significantly impact their health.

House Bill 436 seeks to ease the burden on individuals who require darker window tinting for medical reasons. Right now, Maryland law allows a medical exemption for advanced window tinting, but individuals must renew their exemption every two years—even if they have a permanent, lifelong condition. This bill would remove that requirement for those with chronic medical conditions, ensuring they do not have to repeatedly prove what their doctors have already certified as a permanent need.

We have met with the Maryland State Police to discuss this bill, and they provided their input. I am happy to report that I accept the amendment and hopes the committee does as well. It states: “If a licensed physician determines that the owner’s medical condition is permanent, the written certification shall be valid indefinitely.” This ensures that individuals with chronic conditions will not have to reapply every two years, while maintaining a process for those with temporary conditions to renew as needed.

Maryland is one of only nine states that allow a medical exemption for advanced tinting, yet we have one of the strictest renewal policies. Most states do not require recertification at all. North Carolina requires renewal every five years, and Illinois every four years—both much longer than Maryland’s current two-year requirement. This bill brings our state in line with more reasonable policies and removes an unnecessary hassle for those already managing complex medical needs.

At its core, this bill is about common sense. If someone has a permanent medical condition, they should not have to jump through hoops every two years just to maintain the protection they need. This small change can make a meaningful difference in people’s lives without compromising public safety.

I respectfully ask for your support on HB 436, and I thank you for your time and consideration.