February 13, 2025

To: Chairman Will C. Smith and The Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham

Address: 8250 Georgia Avenue, #823, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Email Address: <u>ericgrantham04@gmail.com</u>

Cell: 240 688 3322

BILL for SB0618 - Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Notation of Nonapparent Disability aka ERIC ID LAW. *(THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)*

Position: I would like to request this BILL be favorable to have the OPTION to select this voluntary choice for Maryland State ID.

Written Testimony for Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham I am a 20-Year old African American male who is highly functioning autistic. I have been a Maryland citizen all of my life. I created special logos for AKA "ERIC's ID LAW" **BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent** *Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)*

for people with invisible disabilities. Like Autism, Mental Health, Hearing Impaired and Hidden Disabilities should people with invisible disabilities be stopped by Law Enforcement.

Bill Number: SB0618

TITLE: Vehicle Laws - Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's Permits - Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW"

I would like to tell you my story about how I began "ERIC's ID LAW". When George Floyd was killed. My mother sat down with me to have a talk if I ever get stopped by the Law Enforcement. My mother told me if the police ever stop me to put my hands up! Yell out "I have Autism! " and yell out "someone call my mom!" Yell out my mother's phone number! She told me DO NOT TRY TO GRAB MY PHONE! Because the police may think I am reaching for a gun.

I said Mom! – I can do that but the police would shoot my friends. I started to cry telling my mom "WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING NOW!" My mother said – Let's think about this! My mother contacted former Chief of Police Robert J. Contee and we decided to meet with Chief Contee about doing a workshop with the police to teach people about

autism/invisible disabilities.

I went to my mom and asked her to please take me to congress to meet with the former House Speaker, Mrs. Nancy Pelosi. I wanted to talk with her about my ideas for laws for people like me and my friends that have autism, brain injury, bipolar, hearing impaired and other hidden disabilities. My mother told me she is very proud of me and she would do her best to get me to congress so I can tell them about my ideas for laws.

We met with Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando, Evan Glass, Kate Stewart, Andrew Friedson, Dawn Luedtke, Prince George's County State's Attorney, Aisha Braveboy, Mayor Casheena Cross of Glenarden Maryland, Prince George's County Sheriff John Carr, Montgomery County Sheriff Maxwell Uy, Montgomery County Chief of Police Marcus Jones, Senator, Chris Van Hollen, Delegate Kym Taylor, Delegate Lesley Lopez, Senator Nick Charles, Senator Michael Jackson, Congressman David Trone, President Darryll Pines of UMD and Montgomery College. ALL of these people Approved of AKA "ERIC's ID LAW - **BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)**

On July 10, 2023 me and my mother met with our Maryland State Senator Will C. Smith. I told him about my concerns. If I ever get stopped by the police, I may not be able to communicate well when they tell me what to do. I told him about my friends that have autism and their autism is different for each one of my friends. One of my friends I am really concerned about his autism is very different and I am worried about his safety. Because if the police ever stop him, he would run and hide because he is scared. You cannot tell when you look at him that he has autism. I don't want the police to hurt him. I don't want my other friends that have autism to be scared and run because the police may hurt them.

This is when I told my mother I wanted to put logos for autism, mental hearing, hearing impaired and hidden disabilities on the ID and driver license. Because when the police stop someone with an invisible disability this may make it safer for the person that has an invisible disability. When I told my story to Senator Will C. Smith, He said to me and mother that he is going to write the BILL for aka "ERIC"s ID LAW". **BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Non Apparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW**". **(THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION)**

I would like to ask that this Law have the **OPTION FOR VOLUNTARY SELECTION.** Because I have researched that more people of color are more likely to being diagnosed with hidden disability than Caucasian people. According to Autism Speaks, Disabled individual are seven times more likely than others to interact with police, and 53% of autistic adults in 2019 study reported having had four or more interaction with police in their lifetime.

I hope "ERIC"s ID LAW" will save lives for every race. It's not just about black people it's for ALL PEOPLE! I have noticed that some people that are NOT OF COLOR have tried to oppose this BILL. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY? This is a VOLUNTARY SELECTION! I wish we could ALL work together to save lives for people with invisible disabilities.

There are 19-States that have something on their ID's for people with invisible disabilities. Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington DC, Washington State and many more.

I would like to ask ALL the State Senators and House of Delegates from the bottom of my heart to please pass BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Non-Apparent Disability AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION) Because we need change. If things don't change people with invisible disabilities will continue to be hurt and killed.

If this **BILL for SB0618-Vehicle Laws -Licenses, Identification of Nonapparent Disability** AKA "ERIC's ID LAW". (THIS WOULD BE A VOLUNTARY SELECTION) is passed we would like to use the BUTTERFLY for HIDDEN DISABILITIES on the MARYLAND STATE ID.

I have attached examples of "ERIC"s ID LAW" logos on Dummy ID's. I have also attached statistics about people of color with autism and invisible disabilities being stopped by police. Me and my mother have submitted letters of support from the public to Senator Will C. Smith's Office.

PLEASE MAKE THE CHANGE TO SAVE LIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM AND INVISIBLE

DISABILITIES. Kind regards

Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham

Email: ericsidlaw@gmail.com

Cell: 240 688 3322

Examples of Eric's ID Law Logos created by Eric Blessed Carpenter-Grantham



Statistics for the State Of Maryland & The United States Of America

According to United for Alice number of People With Disabilities in Maryland = 655,840 financial hardship among people with disabilities:maryland United Way of the National Capital Area https://unitedwaynca.org > uploads > 2022/11

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States is diagnosed with autism. In Maryland, the prevalence is slightly higher, with 1 in 50 children being diagnosed.

Prevalence and Characteristics of Autism Spectrum ... Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (.gov) https://www.cdc.gov > mmwr > volumes

The estimates suggest that about 3% of Black, Hispanic and Asian or Pacific Islander children have an autism diagnosis, compared with about 2% of white kids. Autism now more common in Black, Latino children than white ... NBC News https://www.nbcnews.com > news > autism-now-comm...

In Maryland, Black and Asian or Pacific Islander children were two times more likely to be identified with ASD as Hispanic and white children.

<u>CDC Report Shows Overall and Maryland Autism Rate</u> ... Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health https://publichealth.jhu.edu > cdc-report-shows-overall-a...

Black children in Maryland were more likely to have ASD than white children.

CDC Report Shows Overall and Maryland Autism Rate ...

<u>Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health https://publichealth.jhu.edu ></u> <u>cdc-report-shows-overall-a...</u> People under age 30 with disabilities are 44% more likely to be arrested by police.

People With Disabilities More Likely to Be Arrested Social Work Today Magazine https://www.socialworktoday.com > news

In the United States, 50 percent of people killed by law enforcement are disabled, and more than half of disabled African Americans have been arrested by the time they turn 28—double the risk in comparison to their white disabled counterparts.

<u>Understanding the Policing of Black, Disabled Bodies Center for American Progress</u> <u>https://www.americanprogress.org > article > understan...</u>

According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, people with I/DD are often misjudged by police and the general public because their disabilities are invisible.

<u>Interacting With Police If You Have a Disability</u> <u>Police Brutality Center https://policebrutalitycenter.org > interacting-with-police-...</u>

According to <u>Autism Speaks</u>, disabled individuals are seven times more likely than others to interact with police, and 53 percent of autistic adults in a 2019 study reported having had four or more interactions with police in their lifetime.

Interacting With Police If You Have a Disability Police Brutality Center https://policebrutalitycenter.org > interacting-with-police-...

Officers perceived 1.2% of the people they stopped to have one or more disabilities.

<u>https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2022-01-12/pedestrian-traffic-stops-police-essenti</u> <u>al-california</u>

Boys are nearly 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls. Autism prevalence is lower among white children than other racial and ethnic groups: White – 2.4% Black – 2.9%

Report reveals who gets stopped by cops in California Los Angeles Times https://www.latimes.com > california > newsletter > ped...

Charles County Maryland Police Department stop paralyzed man

Cops Degrade Paralyzed Man During Traffic Stop

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Colorado



Link:

https://www.koaa.com/news/covering-colorado/new-dmv-identification-options -to-help-communicate-disabilities-in-e mergency-situations

Link:

https://invisibledisabilities.org/news/pre ss-releases/disability-id-symbol-availab le-in-colorado/



	Applic		Medical/Disability Information /Identification Card	Link:
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Request: The request can be made during an in-person or online issuance transaction.

The state of Iowa also allows individuals with ASD to add a Medical Alert designation to their license.

This designation appears in red bold letters on the bottom right corner of the license. The individual can choose how to share this information. While some individuals with ASD may face challenges while driving, it is achievable with proper training and preparation.

This is a voluntary indicator and is not a restriction of driving privileges.



Mississippi

Mississippi residents can request an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) indicator on their driver's license or ID through the DPS Driver Service Bureau. Mississippi residents with a medical disability can receive a disability identification card with a symbol on it to indicate their disability. The symbol can indicate that the person is diabetic, hearing impaired, or requires a disability ID. To get the card, individuals must complete a Physician Certification Form and return it to a Driver Service Bureau Station. If the applicant already has an ID card and wants to add the symbol, they will need to pay a \$11 duplicate fee.

Link:

https://www.driverservicebureau.dps.ms.gov/node/302#: ~:text=Physician%20Certification%20Form%20is%20us ed.at%20apy%20Driver%20Service%20location https://www.driverservicebure au.dps.ms.gov/node/302

https://www.driverservicebure au.dps.ms.gov/sites/default/fil es/2020-12/CRED01b-DL%2 0APPLICATION12-20.pdf



INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITY STUDIES THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Michigan
Michigan
Michigan and a strength of the
Michigan residents with autism can add a voluntary communication impediment designation to their driver's
license, state ID, or vehicle registration:
What it is
The designation informs law enforcement about communication needs in the event of a traffic stop or
emergency. It appears on the Law Enforcement Information Network, but not on the driver's license or ID.
Who can apply
Anyone with autism, deafness, hearing impairment, or another medical condition that makes communication
difficult can apply.
How to apply
Complete the BFS-250 form and have it certified by a Michigan-licensed medical professional. The form can be
mailed, faxed, emailed, or processed in person at a Secretary of State office. There is no fee.
Benefits /
The designation can help create safer interactions with law enforcement. For example, police can be more
understanding and use sensory-friendly approaches, such as less light and sound, and more distance. It can
also be important in a medical emergency, as medical professionals may be more cautious about triggers and
sensory concerns.
WKAR Public Media https://www.wkar.org > news michiganders-on-autism
https://news.dpss.umich.edu > 2021/04
Missouri

In Missouri, a "permanent disability indicator" can be added to a driver's license or non-driver ID upon request, appearing on the back of the card, signifying that the holder has a permanent disability; to obtain this indicator, a medical statement from a licensed healthcare professional is required.

Key points about Missouri disability indicators on driver's licenses:

How to add it:

antimur a When applying for a new, renewal, or duplicate license, you can request to have the disability indicator added.

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Medical verification: A physician, physical therapist, occupational therapist, or other authorized licensed healthcare practitioner must complete a medical statement to verify the permanent disability.

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No additional cost:

Adding the disability indicator does not incur extra fees.

Permanent Disability Indicator FAQs Missouri Department of Revenue (.gov) https://dor.mo.gov > fag > driver-license > permanent-d...

Purpose:

This indicator is intended to alert emergency personnel about a person's permanent disability.

New Hampshire

a person with autism can add an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) indication to their driver's license or non-driver's picture identification card in New Hampshire.

- To add the indication, you can complete the Medically Recognized Disorder Indication form on the New Hampshire DMV website.
- A licensed physician must sign the form.
- You can drop off the form at a New Hampshire DMV dropbox.
- There is no additional cost to add the indication during a renewal.
- If you add the indication outside of a renewal period, there is a \$3 fee for a replacement license or ID card.
- If the name of the disorder is longer than 25 characters, only the abbreviation will appear on the ID.

Identifying Disability On a Driver's License Community Crossroads https://communitycrossroadsnh.org > identifying-disabil...

North Carolina

North Carolina will allow a voluntary driver's license designation for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will enter the designation into the driver's license record, instead of a unique symbol on the license.

The applicant must provide verification or documentation of their ASD diagnosis.

Law enforcement will receive training on the designation and how to interact with people with ASD.

There will be a process for voluntarily removing

the designation.

<u>HB 581 – Drivers License</u> <u>Designation/Autism</u>

North Carolina Medical Society https://ncmedsoc.org.> hb-581-drivers-license-designati...

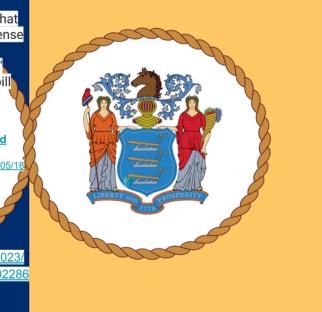
New Jersey

The legislation, S761, allows people to indicate that they have a communication disorder on their license or government identification card. "This law is a victory for people with autism and their families," Murphy said in a statement after he signed the bill into law Monday. May 18, 2023

Link: NJ drivers licenses autism note can be included under law Bergen Record http://www.northjersey.com > news > state > 2023/05/1

Link: <u>Governor Signs Bill to Identify Autism on New</u> Jersey ... Autism NJ https://autismnj.org > news > governor-signs-bill-to-id...

Link:https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/state/2023/ 05/18/nj-drivers-licenses-autism-law-police-stops/702286 93007/





According to the DMV's release, conditions eligible for a "Star of Life" symbol include vision impairment, chronic obstruction pulmonary disease, autism, deafness, depression, diabetes, epilepsy, hemophilia, schizophrenia, mental illness, food allergies and more.



Oklahoma

NEW HOUSE BILL HELPS DISABLED OKLAHOMA

House Bill 2516 goes into effect Nov. 1, making it easier for drivers with disabilities to communicate with law enforcement during a traffic stop.

Tuesday, October 29th 2019

Link: New House Bill Helps Disabled Oklahoma Drivers

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South Carolina

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The SCDMV Form 447-CAD is used when an individual
wishes to voluntarily disclose a medical condition to the
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. This form
allows individuals to provide information about their
medical condition, treatment, and any restrictions or
accommodations needed while operating a vehicle. The
form also includes a section for the individual's healthcare
provider to certify the medical condition.
This form is important for individuals who have a medical
condition that may affect their driving ability. By
voluntarily disclosing this information, the SCDMV can
assess whether any restrictions or accommodations are
necessary to ensure safe driving. It is crucial to provide
accurate and thorough information on this form to enable
the SCDMV to make informed decisions regarding the
individual's driving privileges.
Preview attachment 447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of
a Medical Condition.pdf
447-CAD Voluntary Disclosure of a Medical
Condition.pdf
215 KB



Link:https://wrongplanet.net/forums/vi ewtopic.php?t=352455

Link:https://www.aspergers101.com/dr iving-autism-communication-impedim ents/

Texans now have the option to disclose "Communication Impediment" directly on the front of their Driver License or State ID or when registering their vehicle through the DMV. This will alert the trained officer of an individual who may be slower to respond or one who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Virginia

JP's Law Passed To Protect All People With Special Needs

Autism Parenting Magazine https://www.autismparentingmagazine .com > protect-peo...

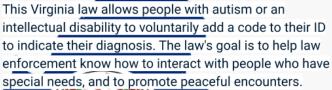
Virginia Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (.gov) https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov part 02 jps law

JPs Law/SB367

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JP's Law



to indicate their diagnosis. The law's goal is to help law special needs, and to promote peaceful encounters.

Washington State



Link:

https://www.king5.com/article/n ews/local/washington-drivers-lic ense-designations-medical-symb ols/281-d5024acc-f9d9-4284-8f9 7-4c33fe5bd981

Jan. 1 2022, citizens who lives in washington state can choose to add one or more symbols to their ID showing they have a medical condition, developmental disability or are deaf or hard of hearing.

Washington D.C (District of Columbia)

Yes, you can add a disability designation to your driver's license or ID card in Washington, DC:

REAL ID driver's license

You can add a special designation indicator for a disability such as autism, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, or visual impairment.

Limited Purpose driver's license

You can add a special designation indicator for a disability, as well as an organ donation designation. You can also add or remove disability and medical designations from your driver's license or ID card system. These designations can provide first responders with information about how you communicate or if you have a condition that could affect a health emergency.

Driver License/Identification **Card Application** (English)

t 12. RESTRICTIONS Q - Intellectual Disabi R - Visually Impaired

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