

HB0023_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#0023 – FAVORABLE

Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0023, Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors

The National Network for Youth explains why we need this bill. ¹

For all people in America, access to valid government-issued photo identification is critical to fully accessing daily needs. This can include regular tasks such as picking up a package or prescription, entering public and private buildings or using interstate transportation. Access to identification is also critical for certain tasks that are vital to the survival of youth experiencing homelessness, or that allow them to access support, such as: obtaining a job, applying for public benefits (such as SNAP), opening a bank account, establishing a mailbox, or enrolling in school or workforce programs. Minor-aged youth experiencing homelessness face unique challenges in obtaining an ID. Because of the general transiency of their lives, many youth experiencing homelessness may not have access to an existing ID, or the documentation necessary to obtain one. **Many youth experiencing homelessness on their own do not have a relationship with a parent or guardian that makes them available for youth when their consent or action is needed to sign necessary documents.** (emphasis added) Finally, many youth experiencing homelessness lack access to the Social Security card, birth certificate and/or government-issued identification card needed to enroll in programs or complete required tax forms. This lack of access is often linked to their homelessness status.

This bill acknowledges the concerns listed above by prohibiting the Motor Vehicle Administration from requiring a parent or legal guardian of a minor at least 15 years of age to cosign or be present at the time of submission of the minor's application for an identification card; and requiring the Administration to adopt regulations establishing acceptable forms of documentation establishing proof of residency that a minor at least 15 years of age may use in an application for an identification card.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0023.

¹ https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary_Access-to-Identification-for-Minor-Youth.pdf