



House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 5, 2026

House Bill 23 – *Motor Vehicle Administration – Identification Cards – Issuance to Minors*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 23.

House Bill 23 would allow Maryland minors, 15 years of age and older, to obtain a State-issued identification card without requiring a parent or legal guardian to cosign or be present during the application process. This bill, if enacted, will help reduce barriers to essential opportunities for youth, particularly those experiencing unstable home environments, foster care placement changes, or guardianship challenges.

Youth in foster care, homeless adolescents, or those in transient living situations frequently lack a guardian who can attend Motor Vehicle Administration appointments or provide the documentation traditionally required. These barriers are not reflective of a young person's readiness or responsibility, but of structural hurdles beyond their control. House Bill 23 addresses this inequity by allowing alternative forms of proof and making the process more accessible. We urge a favorable vote.

For more information call:

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