

Facts on Low-Cost Transportation, Repairs, Consumer Protection and Transformative Economic Efficiency

My name is **Husain Waheed**, and I am here to speak in support of the **Transformative Economic Efficiency bill HB 1569** designed to protect Maryland residents from unfair parking penalties on low-cost vehicles used for basic transportation.

This bill addresses a **simple but widespread problem**.

Maryland vehicle owners are often hit with **hundreds — sometimes thousands — of dollars in parking penalties** for violations they never committed, never saw, and were never informed about.

A common scenario occurs when a **vehicle is at a repair shop**.

The shop parks the car illegally, a ticket is placed on the windshield, and the owner never sees it because the vehicle is not in their possession.

Months later, the owner discovers the ticket only after **late fees, penalties, and collection charges have dramatically increased the cost**.

At that point, the owner has **no practical way to challenge the violation**.

The system assumes the owner was responsible, even though the vehicle was **under someone else's custody and control**.

For many Maryland residents — especially **students, researchers, and working families** who rely on low-cost vehicles simply to get to work, school, or medical appointments — these penalties can become **financially devastating**.

Many people **do not have the time or resources** to gather documentation and fight the issue in court.

The legal process itself can become **expensive and burdensome**.

As penalties accumulate, some people **lose their vehicles entirely** because they cannot afford the growing fines.

In some cases, the vehicle may even be **scrapped**, eliminating a person's primary means of transportation.

These unresolved penalties can also **follow individuals later**, affecting their standing with local jurisdictions when they begin working in **professional or skilled careers**.

- This bill restores fairness in **two simple ways**:
 - It places responsibility on the **party who actually had custody and control of the vehicle** at the time of the violation.
 - It ensures that **vehicle owners receive proper notice before penalties and fees are allowed to accumulate**.

This is **not about avoiding responsibility**.

It is about making sure responsibility is **assigned to the right party** and that Maryland residents are **given a fair chance to respond**.

Protecting access to **low-cost transportation** helps ensure that **students, workers, and researchers** can continue contributing to Maryland's economy instead of being pushed out of mobility by procedural penalties.

A system that penalizes people for violations they never saw and never committed is not enforcing the law — it is punishing access to work, education, and opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.