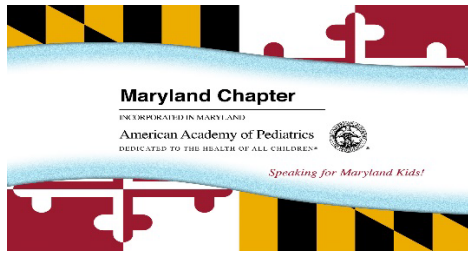


# **HB0023\_FAV\_MDAAP\_MVA - Identification Cards - Issu**

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



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:**

Christine K. Krone  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
410-244-7000

# **HB0023 Diana Philip FAV**

Uploaded by: Diana Philip

Position: FAV

## THE COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN

*Our Mission: To combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanence, and wellbeing.*



### **HB0023 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors February 5, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a consortium of organizations and individuals formed in 1992 who are concerned about the care of Maryland's most vulnerable children and work together to educate and promote meaningful child welfare reform. **CPMC urges a favorable report on HB0023 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors.**

Among the wide scope of children and youth who have experienced involvement with the child welfare system, our coalition supports policy efforts to support older youth preparing for the aging out process and their transition into adulthood. Government-issued photo identification is foundational to daily life. It is required to open a bank account, complete employment eligibility paperwork, enroll in educational or workforce programs, access health care, and secure housing and other essential services. For many older youth in foster care as well as unaccompanied minors, the current requirement that a parent or legal guardian be present at the Motor Vehicle Administration when a minor is seeking a state issued-identification card, creates an insurmountable barrier towards that young person's goals of self-sufficiency.

Many of these young people have no living, available, or legally engaged parent or guardian. Others reside in kinship care, group homes, or independent living placements where caregivers may be unable to take time off work or accompany a youth during standard MVA hours. As a result, youth are delayed or entirely prevented from obtaining identification that is essential for their transition to independence. Unaccompanied minors face similar challenges. Allowing minors aged 15 and older to apply for a state-issued identification card advances youth stability, autonomy, and self-sufficiency. This policy change recognizes the realities faced by foster youth and unaccompanied minors and supports their successful transitions into adulthood by ensuring timely access to essential identification.

It is for these reasons that the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children **urges a favorable report on HB0023 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors.**<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Members of CPMC represented by this written testimony include American Academy of Pediatrics – MD Chapter, Center for Hope, Child Justice, Citizens Review Board for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocates (MD CASA), Court Appointed Special Advocates (Baltimore County), Everstand, The Family Tree, Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth (MARFY), Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, National Association of Social Workers – MD Chapter, State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN), and individual members of the coalition.

**HB23\_Del.Woods Testimony 02.05.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jamila Woods

Position: FAV

JAMILA J. WOODS  
Legislative District 26  
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee  
Criminal Subcommittee  
Chair, Juvenile Subcommittee  
Public Safety Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 206  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3544  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3544  
Jamila.Woods@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony for HB23 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors**

**Good afternoon, Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and esteemed members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.**

My name is Delegate Jamila Woods, and I am here today to request a favorable report on **House Bill 23**, legislation that improves access to State issued identification cards for minors by removing unnecessary procedural barriers while maintaining compliance with federal law.

Access to a State issued identification card is foundational. For young people, it often determines whether they can enroll in school programs, apply for jobs, access health care, secure housing services, or participate fully in their communities. Yet for many minors, particularly those who are unhoused, in foster care, estranged from parents, or living in unstable family situations, current Motor Vehicle Administration requirements make obtaining an ID unnecessarily difficult.

This issue was brought to our attention during the 2025 session by **O'Marie Barnes**, who experienced firsthand the shortcomings this bill seeks to address. His experience highlighted how rigid requirements, such as mandatory parental presence or co signature, can unintentionally exclude minors who are otherwise eligible but lack consistent adult support. HB23 responds directly to those realities by allowing minors who are at least 15 years old to apply independently and by expanding the types of documentation that may be used to establish residency.

House Bill 23 does not weaken safeguards. It modernizes policy to reflect real world circumstances. The bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt clear regulations identifying acceptable forms of residency documentation, including school records, child welfare agency records, court documents, and documentation from homeless service providers. These are records which already exist and are routinely relied upon in other contexts to establish identity and residency.

Importantly, HB23 preserves Maryland's commitment to federal compliance. When a minor is unable to meet the requirements of the federal REAL ID Act, the Administration retains the authority to issue a non-REAL ID compliant identification card. This ensures the State remains compliant with federal law while still providing minors with access to essential identification.

I would also like to recognize **Delegate Vaughn Stewart**, who previously served on this committee. His leadership and support were instrumental in helping our office navigate the complexities of REAL ID compliance while ensuring the State continued to serve vulnerable populations with care and flexibility. His guidance reinforced that compliance and access can coexist.

House Bill 23 reflects that balance. It acknowledges the administrative needs of the State while ensuring young people are not denied basic identification due to circumstances beyond their control.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 23.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jamila J. Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

**Delegate Jamila J. Woods**  
Maryland House of Delegates  
District 26 – Prince George's County

# **HB23 MALMB Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Kovacs

Position: FAV



**Local power, collective voice  
for Maryland's children, youth and families**

February 5, 2025

**SUPPORT – HB023 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors**

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards, I am writing in support of **Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors** to expand access to identification cards to minors. This bill would remove the requirement for a parent or legal guardian to cosign or be present for the minor's application. Identification cards are an essential for access to jobs, housing, education, and even basic services.

Local Management Boards in each county and jurisdiction in the State of Maryland conduct community needs assessments and address the needs of children and families in their respective jurisdiction. We regularly work with unhoused and foster youth who may be separated from their families and where parent permission is a barrier to them accessing resources. Having an identification card is a lifeline for our youth and creating more access will allow for them to have more opportunity.

**We urge you to support HB023 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors** to create wider access to identification cards to minors.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Brown, PhD  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Maryland Association of Local Management Boards

# **Testimony on HB0023 - O'Marie Barnes.pdf**

Uploaded by: O'Marie Barnes

Position: FAV

**Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:**

While I serve as the Student Member on the Maryland State Board of Education, my testimony today is offered in my personal capacity, not on behalf of the board.

I appear before you to respectfully urge a favorable report on HB0123, of which I am the originator. When I initially reached out to Delegate Jamilla Woods last session, I was facing a significant obstacle. A few months prior, I had visited my local branch of the Motor Vehicle Administration, accompanied by my Great-Grandmother, who, following my mother's departure in my early infancy, assumed the role of my primary caregiver.

Although present in my life, my father never formally acknowledged paternity on my birth certificate, a circumstance beyond my control. Furthermore, approximately five years ago, he relocated 50 miles from my residence to Leonardtown, Maryland.

These circumstances do not reflect a lack of character or judgment; rather, they represent situations that affect thousands of Maryland youth residing in non-traditional or kinship care households. Nevertheless, my Great-Grandmother and I were denied service at the MVA. Current regulations mandate the physical presence of a BIOLOGICAL PARENT at the time of application for an Identification Card. Additionally, without my father's name on the birth certificate, which that parent is also required to furnish, I was unable to obtain identification absent legislative intervention.

Indeed, intervention became necessary. The MVA demonstrated a lack of commitment to equity by granting my identification only as a "favor" to my Delegate. I implore you to ensure that access to identification is not a privilege, but an accessible right. That same summer, my father tragically passed away as a result of an unforeseen accident. Consequently, had Delegate Woods not intervened, it would have been physically impossible for me to obtain an ID until my eighteenth birthday, a critical juncture that would have prevented me from traveling, securing employment, or exercising my right to vote.

HB0123 would eliminate these obstacles by prohibiting the MVA from imposing the current requirement, while simultaneously maintaining rigorous standards for the verification of identity and citizenship, including:

- Proof of Age
- Social Security Verification
- Two Proofs of Residency

For these reasons, I urge you to take decisive action on behalf of the youth you represent by voting in favor of HB0023.

With Respect,  
O'Marie Barnes

# **Testimony in support of HB0023 - MVA - Identificat**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0023\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

02/05/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**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. <sup>1</sup>

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.**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary\\_Access-to-Identification-for-Minor-Youth.pdf](https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary_Access-to-Identification-for-Minor-Youth.pdf)

# **HB0023 - LOC – MVA - Identification Cards - Issuan**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Concern – House Bill 23 – Motor Vehicle Administration - Identification Cards - Issuance to Minors***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 23 but offers the following concerns for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 23 alters certain requirements related to issuance of a Maryland Identification (ID) Card to minors at least 15 years of age or older by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). These alterations include not requiring a parent or legal guardian’s signature or presence for certain minors to obtain identification cards, changes to documents the MVA must accept for certain provisions related to REAL ID, and allowances for issuing a non-compliant ID card in certain circumstances.

MVA requires a parent or guardian to provide a signature in order to issue an identification card. The MVA currently has a process in place for minors to obtain a Maryland ID card which incorporates acceptable documents unique to this age group that the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has approved as meeting REAL ID requirements. The MVA will provide a REAL ID to any individuals – including minors covered by this bill – if the individual can meet the document requirements. The MVA works closely with customers to bring them into compliance with REAL ID requirements even when they do not have the most common documents.

The MVA is proud of its REAL ID compliance rate of 99% and is in the process of having its REAL ID program re-certified by DHS. Changes to any licensing documents for REAL IDs require advance permission from DHS.

Additionally, HB 23 would require the MVA to issue a non-compliant product in an instance where a minor who is at least 15 years old cannot meet the document requirements set out by the federal REAL ID Act. However, Maryland law presently requires customers who are issued a non-compliant ID card to provide proof from the Maryland Comptroller’s Office that they have been a taxpaying resident of Maryland for at least two years. The requirement to provide two years of tax returns filed with the Comptroller may prove difficult for the minors covered under HB 23, who are less likely to have the required tax records.

MVA is currently in conversation with the bill sponsor to address the underlying intent of the bill. We may be able to address some of these concerns by policy or alternative means. We are open to collaborating to ensure a satisfactory resolution for all parties.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090