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AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS
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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific-Islander Caucus
DATE: 3/10/2026
RE: HB0777 - Motor Vehicles - Required Equipment - Rear Occupant Alert
Systems (Hot Cars Act)

The AAPI Caucus supports HB0777 - Motor Vehicles - Required Equipment - Rear Occupant Alert Systems (Hot Cars Act)

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus represents AAPI communities in the General Assembly and works to advance their legislative priorities. The Caucus respectfully supports HB0777, the Hot Cars Act, to improve vehicle safety and help prevent the tragic injury or death of children left in cars.

HB0777 prohibits the sale of certain motor vehicles manufactured or assembled after a specified date unless the vehicle is equipped with a rear occupant alert system. The bill also prohibits the Motor Vehicle Administration from registering a motor vehicle sold in violation of the Act. By setting a clear safety standard, the bill promotes wider use of technology designed to remind drivers to check the back seat before leaving a vehicle.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander families, this protection matters. Heat-related deaths and injuries in vehicles are preventable tragedies that can affect any family and have devastating consequences for parents, caregivers, and communities. Requiring rear occupant alert systems is a practical way to reduce the risk of human error and add an additional layer of protection for children and other vulnerable passengers.

HB0777 is a commonsense step toward safer vehicles and stronger protections for Maryland families. By requiring rear occupant alert systems in certain vehicles, the bill will help prevent avoidable harm and support public awareness of an important child safety issue.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0777.