

**Oral Testimony on SB0856/HB1338**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**March 4, 2026**

Good afternoon Chair William Smith, Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Carole Argo, and I serve as CEO of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives. Through our Vocational Training Center in Baltimore City, we train approximately 250 adults each year in high-demand trades including HVAC, Commercial Driver's License, and Automotive Technology.

Our graduates complete all required education, supervised practice, and pass their road tests. Yet many are delayed from employment for up to 18 months because Maryland requires all first-time drivers — regardless of age — to hold a provisional license before obtaining a full, unrestricted license.

In the Baltimore region right now, there are hundreds of open HVAC and CDL positions — many paying \$30 to \$35 per hour or more. Employers in these fields require a full driver's license for insurance purposes. As a result, otherwise qualified adults are unable to begin working in the careers they trained for.

This bill does not eliminate driver education, testing, supervised practice, or penalties. Teen graduated licensing protections remain intact.

The strongest evidence supporting extended provisional systems applies to teen drivers. There is no clear evidence that an 18-month waiting period uniquely improves safety outcomes for adults.

This bill removes a waiting period — not safety standards — and helps Maryland adults enter high-demand careers more quickly.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you.