



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 466 – Civil Actions – Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Vulnerable
Individuals – Comparative Negligence**

Good afternoon, Chair Bartlett and esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 466, which aligns with Rockville’s Vision Zero and Pedestrian Master Plan priorities. We are thankful to Delegate Embry and colleagues for introducing this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 466, and support the comparative negligence standard for civil actions involving motor vehicle collisions. We believe Maryland should join with the majority of States who have already changed their standard away from contributory negligence.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- It creates a more equitable system for victim compensation.
- For the first time, vulnerable individuals would have the opportunity to recover damages resulting from a vehicle collision. Given the rise in healthcare costs, any ability to recover damages increases the ability of individuals who are injured to receive the medical care they need.
- We have an obligation to protect pedestrians, bicyclists, those who roll, and others at greatest risk for serious injury or death in collisions, while promoting accountability and encouraging drivers to exhibit safer driving behavior.

HB 466 takes an important step forward by bringing increased fairness and equity to Maryland’s civil justice system. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 466 with a favorable report. Thank you.