



Testimony of Lisa Spicknall, Executive Director MADD Maryland
In Support of SB870
February 27, 2020

Good afternoon, I am Lisa Spicknall, Executive Director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving here in Maryland. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) strongly urges you to support SB870 by Senator Waldstreicher, which would require all first-time convicted drunk drivers who are granted a Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) to install an ignition interlock for 180 days.

In Maryland, ignition interlocks are required for all convicted drunk drivers, but not for those who are granted a PBJ. SB870 allows for PBJ, but includes the lifesaving use of the interlock as part of the sanction. Maryland already sets mandatory conditions for PBJ agreements, but fails to include the use of an interlock for every participant. At least eight states require interlocks for PBJ's.

Drunk driving is a leading killer on Maryland roadways. In 2018, 130 people died in drunk driving crashes across the state, representing 24 percent of all traffic deaths. Increasing the use of interlocks is proven to reduce drunk driving. Over the past 12 years, ignition interlocks have prevented 57,622 attempts to drive drunk in Maryland. That averages to almost 5,000 attempts to start! Can you imagine how many more attempts to drive drunk will be stopped by enacting this bill?

HB 952 will help stop repeat offenses and reduce DUI recidivism. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all-offender interlock laws reduce drunk driving recidivism by 67 percent.

License suspension alone is not the most effective way to protect the public from repeat offenders. As we know, and studies show, drivers still drive when licenses are suspended.

Included in my written testimony you will find more information on ignition interlocks. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this important, lifesaving, legislation.

The most important part of this bill, passing this bill, though is the victims. You will hear from some of them today, but unfortunately all of the victims that want to be here to share their story cannot. Such as:

Paula & Jerry Celentano, whose 17 year old daughter Alisa, was killed by an impaired driver whose BAC 2.5 hours after the crash was .22 and who just 2 months prior to killing Alisa was not ordered to have an interlock installed even though he had gone to court for a DUI.

Cpl. Courtney Brooks, whose daughter Casey would have told you about how her father was killed while working a New Years Eve patrol and hit by a repeat offender impaired driver who had been convicted 3 months prior for a DUI, but again no interlock installed.

Or Deb Hardy, whose 13 year old daughter Janet, was killed by an impaired driver who just 7 months prior had received a probation before judgment.

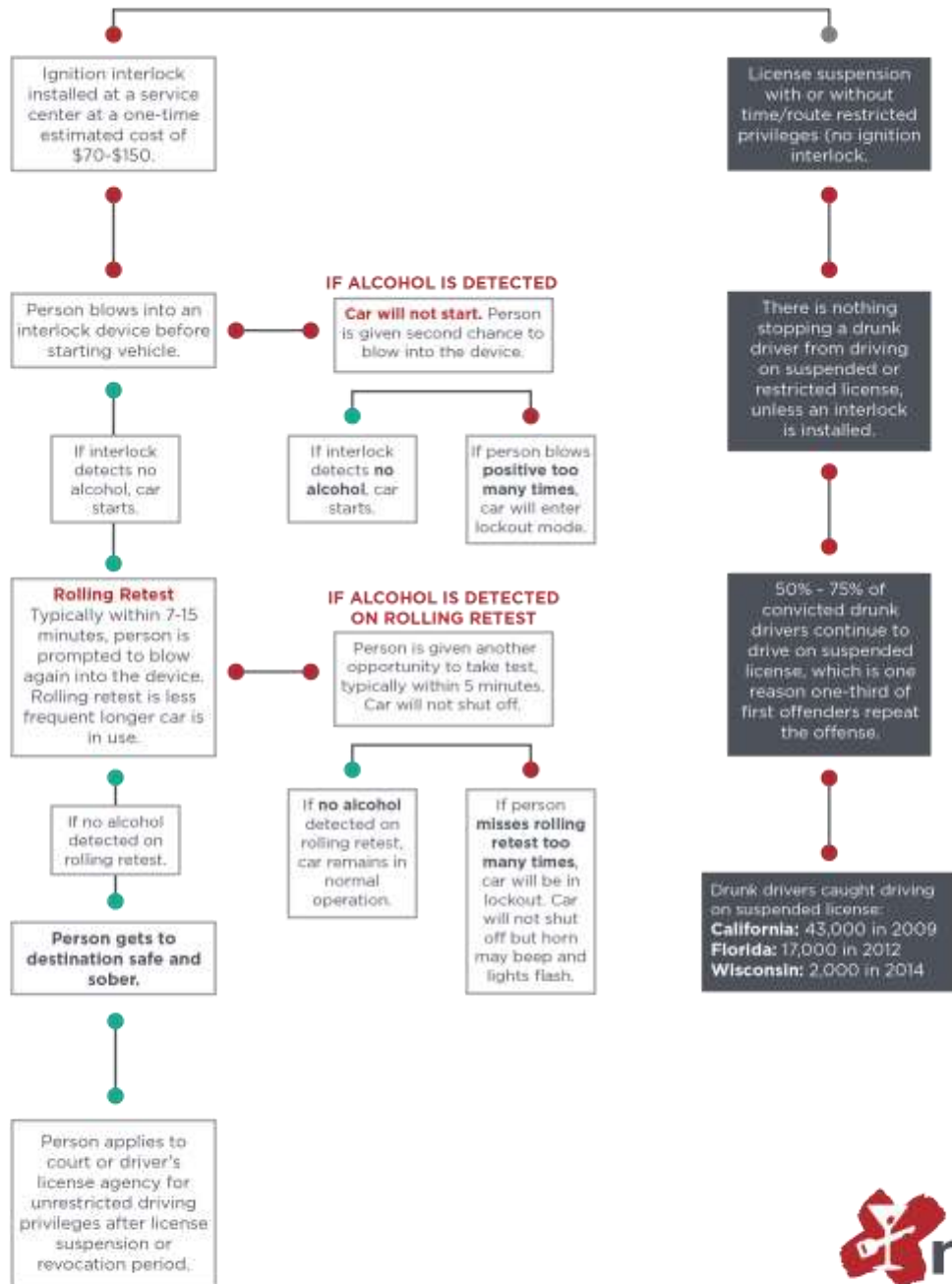


Tom McKnight, whose close friend John Hill, a husband, father, school bus driver, was killed by a repeat offender, who had recently been convicted, but not placed on an ignition interlock.

And finally the reverse, Heather VanDuesen, who is an offender who couldn't be here today to tell you how being on an interlock CHANGED HER LIFE. She blew a .25 and was placed on interlock. She was still able to live her life, still able to go to work, to school and to have a life, but without drinking and driving. She credits the Interlock with saving her life and changing her behavior!

So it is for the victims, Alisa, Cpl. Brooks, Janet, John, and all of the other victims, including the ones you will meet today we urge you to pass SB870.

Ignition Interlock vs. License Suspension After DUI



People who use an interlock are less likely to reoffend. Compared to license suspension alone, interlocks reduce repeat offenses by 67% while the device is installed and 39% after the device is removed. Compliance Based Removal could help decrease repeat offenses even more.

MADD supports ignition interlocks for ALL apprehended drunk drivers. Interlocks accomplish what license suspension and other monitoring technologies do not — separate drinking from driving.

- **Interlock Service Center:** Person must get interlock serviced every 30 days.
- **Lockout Mode:** If person blows positive for alcohol too many times or misses a rolling test, device may need to be taken to get serviced sooner than 30 days.
- **Extra time on interlock possible.** The interlock service center may report any violations, too many positive blows or missed rolling retests to a monitoring agency which may result in extra time on interlock if the state has a **Compliance Based Removal** aspect to the interlock law. Many states require offenders to show proof of installation and/or compliance with the interlock order to the court/driver's license agency in order to have device removed.

Teoh et al, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, “State Ignition Interlock Laws and Fatal Crashes,” March 2018.

- The number of impaired driving crashes falls 16 percent when states enact all-offender ignition interlock laws.
- If all states mandated interlocks for all DUI offenders, more than 500 of those deaths would have been avoided.

McGinty, Emma E. American Journal of Preventative Medicine, “Ignition Interlock Laws: Effects on Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 1982–2013,” January, 2017

- Ignition interlock laws reduce alcohol-involved fatal crashes. Increasing the spread of interlock laws that are mandatory for all offenders would have significant public health benefit.
- Laws requiring interlocks for all drunk driving offenders with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater were associated with a seven percent decrease in the rate of drunk driving fatal crashes.
- Laws requiring interlocks for first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or greater were associated with an eight percent decrease in the rate of drunk driving fatal crashes.
- Laws requiring interlocks for segments of high-risk drunk driving offenders, such as repeat offenders, may reduce alcohol-involved fatal crashes after 2 years of implementation.

California DMV Study of Four-County Ignition Interlock Pilot Program, June 2016

- Ignition interlocks are **74% more effective in reducing DUI recidivism** than license suspension alone for first offenders during first 182 days after conviction.
- **Interlocks are 45% more effective** in preventing a repeat DUI incidence when compared to license suspension alone during days 183 to 365 after conviction. (Many first-time offenders have the device removed after 182 days of use.)
- Ignition interlocks are **70% more effective than license suspension** alone in preventing repeat offenses for second-time offenders, compared to license suspension alone, for the first 364 days of use.
- Interlocks are **58% more effective in preventing a repeat DUI incidence during days 365 to 730** days of use for second-time offenders.
- **Third-time offenders who only had a suspended license were 3.4 times more likely to have a fourth DUI** conviction or incidence compared to the interlocked offender group.
- Because interlocked offenders are able to be part of society and provide for their family by driving to work, grocery stores, restaurants and anywhere else, their crash risk is most likely similar to the general driving population in California, but higher than offenders whose licenses were suspended or revoked and not permitted to drive.

Kaufman, University of Pennsylvania, “Impact of State Ignition Interlock Laws on Alcohol-Involved Crash Deaths in the United States,” March 2016

- DUI **deaths decreased by 15%** in states that enacted all-offender interlock laws.
- States with mandatory interlock laws saw a **0.8 decrease in deaths for every 100,000 people** each year – which is comparable to lives shown to have been saved from mandatory airbag laws (0.9 lives saved per 100,000 people).



Ignition Interlocks Save Lives

Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent while the device is installed compared to license suspension alone. (CDC)

Interlocks help reduce repeat offenses even after the device is removed by 39 percent compared to offenders who never installed an interlock. (Marques, 2010)

First-time offenders are serious offenders. Research from the CDC indicates that first time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested.



All-offender ignition interlock laws stop drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) .08 or greater from reoffending.

The FACTS

- An interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- All-offender interlock laws are widespread. Thirty-four states plus DC have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- As of December 2017, there are approximately 349,030 interlocks in use in the United States.

Ignition interlock laws saves lives. Due in part to laws requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths have declined dramatically and at a better pace compared to the national average decline:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ West Virginia: 60 percent | ✓ Kansas: 34 percent | ✓ Arizona: 29 percent |
| ✓ Delaware: 46 percent | ✓ Oklahoma: 33 percent | ✓ Maryland: 24 percent |
| ✓ Louisiana: 42 percent | ✓ New Mexico: 31 percent | ✓ Mississippi: 22 percent |

Public supports Interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Three surveys indicate strong public support of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers.

- 88 percent (Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, 2010)
- 84 percent (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2009)
- 76 percent (American Automobile Association, 2012)