

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee  
6 Bladen Street, Room 101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Clippinger,

My name is Morgan Mills and I am testifying in favor of House Bill 0762, also known as the Task Force to Study Impaired Driving and New Technologies

This bill would create a task force comprised of several members across several disciplines in order to identify and assess impaired driving in Maryland.

- According to [griffithfoundation.org](http://griffithfoundation.org), “Young drivers are less likely than adults to drive after drinking alcohol, but their crash risk is substantially higher when they do”. On average, the typical impaired Maryland driver involved in a crash is male, aged 21 to 34. I am 22 years old, which means I am of legal drinking age and also within the age range of those typically involved in crashes because of impairment. People who are my close friends are of the highest likelihood to be involved in these crashes
- As reported by the Maryland Department of Transportation 2018 Highway Safety Plan, Maryland crash data show that impaired driving was cited as a factor in about one in every three fatal crashes overall—impairment here being defined as alcohol, other drugs, or a combination. My aunt was killed at the hands of an impaired driver when she was 18 years old. This devastated our family. My mom lost her baby sister. My grandad was never able to walk her down the aisle. These are all consequences of impaired drivers. And, unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence. This is concerning to me, as a young person, because when those my age do drive impaired, we are automatically a higher risk, not only to ourselves, but to others around us as well.
- In 2016 alone, Maryland law enforcement officers issued 54,694 citations for impaired driving. 2,245 of those citations being issued to drivers for operating a vehicle while impaired by controlled dangerous substances (CDS). This is compared to 2,134 written in 2015, and 1,912 written in 2014. These impaired drivers know what they are doing. They know that it is wrong. But this data is clear—it isn’t stopping them, and something has to be done in order to protect our fellow Marylanders.

- I believe that creating this task force is crucial. It may not be the answer to completely stopping impaired driving, but allowing for this task force to be created will help generate new ideas and solutions to further the necessary reform. According to the National Council of Non-Profits, an advocacy group known for their successful governmental task forces, “These collaborations create an environment in which pragmatic reform efforts can be proposed, evaluated, and then successfully developed and implemented”

Again, I am in favor of House Bill #0762.

If this bill becomes law, we can adequately address impaired driving in the State and recommend actions to combat driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to take questions.

Sincerely,

*Morgan Mills*

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