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SB11 – Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – School Zones

UNFAVORABLE

Carrington & Associates, LLC, on behalf of Sensys Gatso, request an UNFAVORABLE report for SB11. This bill would alter from a half-mile to one-tenth of a mile the radius around certain schools within which a school zone may be established and speed monitoring systems may be placed and used.

Sensys Gatso is the leading provider of automated traffic enforcement solutions with a strong global presence. Their mission is saving lives by changing the driving behavior of motorists. They are firmly committed to improving road safety by reducing vehicle speed and red light negation, by optimizing traffic flows and by contributing to a sustainable urban environment, always in close partnership with governments and other authorities all over the world.

The Sensys Gatso Group has more than 60 years' experience in developing and manufacturing innovative traffic enforcement, traffic management and managed services solutions, delivered to more than 70 countries worldwide. Since 1997, Sensys Gatso has supported the Swedish Government to implement their globally embraced road traffic safety project 'Vision Zero', aiming to achieve a road traffic system with no fatalities or serious injuries.

Over the past few years, and some suggest as a result of COVID-19, our State and the entire Nation witnessed an uptick of speed contests, exhibition driving and other reckless vehicular behaviors. There is a viral YouTube video showing cars doing "donuts" at an intersection in Silver Spring within feet of pedestrians, including children. Yet another video shows drivers doing donuts on the Beltway.

On October 26, 2022, around 7:20am, a school crossing guard was hit by a car in Northeast Baltimore. The guard was assigned to Sinclair Lane Elementary School. The guard was sent to the hospital in critical condition. Police say the driver was traveling at a high rate of speed.

According to a “DC News Now” segment on May 18, 2021, it was stated that in Maryland, nearly 50 teenagers die in traffic crashes each year, making it the leading cause of death among teens. Attached for your review and use is a report on pedestrian injuries created by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Pedestrian crashes are defined as traffic crashes involving a person reported on foot, including a motorist who has exited a vehicle. Parents, guardians, students and staff routinely exit vehicles in and around schools. The report details how pedestrian injuries affect the United States and Maryland in particular. The report notes that:

- In 2015, 100 pedestrians were killed in Maryland
- Annually, Maryland drivers are involved in nearly 3,000 pedestrian crashes, more than 86 percent of which resulted in an injury or fatality
- Between 2009-2013, about 90 percent of pedestrian-involved crashes occurred in Baltimore and Washington D.C. metropolitan areas.

Lastly, the National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine in the National Center for Biotechnology Information, published a report on November 1, 2017 entitled, “Hotspots and causes of motor vehicle crashes in Baltimore, Maryland: A geospatial analysis of five years of police crash and census data.” In their abstract, the authors state that, “Road traffic injuries (RTIs) are the leading killer of young people (aged 15–29) globally, and without intervention road traffic crashes are projected to be the 7th leading cause of death by 2030. In the United States, road injuries are the leading cause of death for young men.” The authors also state that “With 2.7 million residents, the Baltimore metropolitan area is one of the larger cities in the United States. Despite covering only 92 of the 12,407 square miles of Maryland (0.7%), the city of Baltimore has the greatest proportion of motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) (21.8%) and RTI (15.3%) in the state.”

For the stated reasons We ask for an UNFAVORABLE report on SB11. We do not believe this is a time to deliberate reducing the radius in which speed monitoring systems can be deployed to protect children, parents, guardians and school personnel.

Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington at darrell.carrington@verizon.net, if you would like any additional information. We thank you in advance for your attention to this serious matter and re-emphasize that we request an UNFAVORABLE report.