



HB 28 – Pedestrian Fatality Prevention Act

Environment & Transportation Committee

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Josh Feldmark

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Position: Support

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Joshua Feldmark representing Bike Maryland. We represent cyclists of all abilities across the state who ride 5 miles around the park with their families, for transportation, to a 100 mile ride. We believe that absolutely everyone should feel safe when they are on Maryland roads..

There is a reasonable chance, at this moment, you are wondering to yourself what the bike people are doing testifying on a pedestrian bill. First and foremost it is important to note that we believe strongly in a transportation system that works effectively and safely for all modalities. We take particular interest in supporting users of options that, generally speaking, do not have adequate representation here in Annapolis and more often than not, are largely unable to represent themselves at hearings like this. Pedestrians are clearly in that category and so we hope that we can adequately support their interests today. In fact, at some time or another, we are almost all pedestrians.

Sadly, in 2023 Howard County saw two truly tragic crashes that killed young children who were pedestrians at the time they were struck by a vehicle. While I do not know what vehicles were driven that killed the children we do know that there is overwhelming data saying that there are two main factors that turn injury crashes into fatality crashes. The first is speed of the vehicle and the second is size/weight of the vehicle. We strongly support any initiative that will make our streets safer.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 28.