

February 15, 2024

Testimony in support of House Bill 601

Hello. My name is Mindy Badin, I live in Montgomery County. How timely that we are talking about House Bill 601 so shortly after a massive exhibition driving episode occurred in Takoma Park? Cars were driving recklessly, doing donuts and burnouts. These activities are inherently dangerous not only to the participants but also to the general public, blocking access to roadways and hindering passage of all vehicles, including emergency vehicles. To make matters worse, police on the scene trying to disburse the crowd and ensure everyone's safety were met with taunting and disdain.

How many more of these events need to occur until something is done? The number of these exhibition driving events only seem to be growing; someone should not have to die in order to pass strict legislation to curtail these activities.

As a mother who has lost her son while he was crossing the street, I am concerned about any roadway activity which threatens the safety of our citizens. The participants know this is dangerous and illegal, yet they continue since there are no significant consequences. House Bill 601 addresses this need. House Bill 601 will provide stricter penalties for this dangerous and outrageous behavior; please give our law enforcement the tools they need to fight this criminal activity and pass House Bill 601. Thank you.