



Chesapeake Region Safety Council's Testimony in Support of SB 479 – Maryland Road Worker Protection Act

Thank you to Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller for their dedicated efforts to protect Maryland's work zone employees and introducing this bill.

Chesapeake Region Safety Council supports Maryland's Road Worker Protection Act. Maryland's roadside workers deserve the advantages that newer technologies, visible enforcement enforcement efforts and stronger penalties that this bill provides.

CRSC is a Maryland-based, 100-year-old chapter of the National Safety Council. Our mission is to conduct training and education to reduce injuries and fatalities in the workplace, on the roadways and in our communities. Last year, we conducted over 775 workplace, emergency care, impairment recognition and defensive driving courses for more than 8000 students.

Our office is in Woodlawn, in Baltimore County, located close to the MD 695/Security Boulevard exit. Staff members could see the area from the back doors of our building where reconstruction was taking place following last year's horrific work zone crash. Five of those individuals worked for the same organization that our Chapter President, Dave Madaras did a safety talk for, just three months before that crash occurred.

Our commitment to increasing safety through education and training is truly CRSC's mission. The purpose of my presence today is to share that we recognize there are more "E's" in Highway Safety beyond "Education", which is the "E" that I typically represent.

Maryland's State, Local, Municipal employees and those working for our Contractors are extremely vulnerable, as they often must focus closely on using tools and operating equipment in a safe manner, instead of looking out for the actions of passing motorists. CRSC is advocating for a more visible, comprehensive approach using the additional engineering and enforcement countermeasures listed in this bill, which will increase motorists' awareness of the presence of roadway workers and the penalties involved when severe violations occur, resulting in fewer crashes and safer roadway workers.

Roadway workers deserve better. The changes listed in this bill are a step in the right direction, providing additional countermeasures to reduce the prevalence of Maryland's most dangerous drivers.

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