



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

DAWN LUEDTKE
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 7

March 5, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 939, *Criminal Law – Reckless Endangerment – Use of a Motor Vehicle*

Dear Chair Smith,

I write in strong support of SB 939, Criminal Law – Reckless Endangerment – Use of a Motor Vehicle. This bill would repeal an exclusion of conduct involving the use of a motor vehicle applicable to the crime of reckless endangerment. Reckless endangerment with a vehicle can have devastating or even fatal consequences for victims, yet we lack an enforcement tool to provide meaningful consequences for the perpetrator.

In tragedy after tragedy, including in the horrific injuries to Sergeant Patrick Kepp on I-270 this October by someone with a pattern of reckless driving, we have seen that a penalty of eight points on one's license and a \$500 fine does not effectively deter this behavior. Habitual reckless drivers feel emboldened by the exclusion of this charge from Maryland's criminal law code.

Traditional reckless driving statutes did not contemplate the kind of behavior we are seeing now. When people use vehicles for conduct that is criminal in nature, such as stunt driving, street racing, and baiting officers into pursuits, their actions are part and parcel of criminal endangerment and should be treated as such.

I thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for Senate Bill 939 and I urge this Committee's favorable report.

Very truly yours,

Dawn Luedtke
Montgomery County Councilmember, District 7

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

100 MARYLAND AVENUE • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850
240-777-7860 • Councilmember.Luedtke@montgomerycountymd.gov
www.montgomerycountymd.gov