



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2024

**Testimony in Support of SB315  
Vehicle Laws - Bike Lanes and Shoulders -  
Yielding Right-of-Way (Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act)**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:

SB315 is the Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act.

Sarah Langenkamp was a constituent and a devoted mother, wife, and US Diplomat. On August 25th, 2022, Sarah was biking home in Bethesda, using a designated bike lane, when she was struck and killed by a driver operating a flatbed truck.

Sarah's husband, two young sons, and family have been left to grieve this senseless loss. In just 2022, there were 606 total crashes in Maryland involving cyclists, and 11 of these crashes were fatal ([Zero Deaths MD](#)).

Our cyclists deserve to make it home to their families safely. The death of Sarah Langenkamp was preventable, like many others, including the death of Nathan Krasnopoler in Baltimore in 2010.

When losses like these happen, the families are left feeling a lack of justice. The driver who hit Sarah was given the maximum penalty under the law for causing the death of a vulnerable individual: \$2000 and 150 hours of community service. A mother and wife gone forever.

SB315 increases the fine for a vehicle failing to yield to a cyclist in a bike lane and causing a crash up to \$2,000 if convicted and/or up to 2 months in jail. These penalties already have precedent in Transportation Title 21.

SB315 combines the \$2,000 fine for causing serious injury or death to a cyclist or pedestrian (Transp. § 21-901.3) with the existing penalty of up to 2 months in jail for a driver failing to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk (Transp. § 21-502).

The seriousness of failing to yield to individuals legally using designated bike lanes or crosswalks can cause serious injury or death. SB315's increased fine amount for this violation is a step in encouraging Marylanders to drive vigilantly and be aware of cyclists using bike lanes and crosswalks.

Today, you will hear from our sponsor panel, including Sarah Langenkamp's husband, Dan Langenkamp, Kyle O'Grady with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, and Susan Cohen, mother of Nathan Krasnopoler, who was tragically struck and killed by a driver in 2010 while cycling in a bike lane in Baltimore.

In order to prevent avoidable tragedies like the death of Sarah Langenkamp and Nathan Krasnopoler, I urge a favorable report on SB315.