



**IMPAIRED
DRIVING
ENDS HERE.**

**Bryna Clark-Braverman
MADD Maryland Regional Executive Director
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 364
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
January 31, 2025**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 364, also known as Jamari's Law, aimed at combating impaired driving. My name is Bryna Clark-Braverman, and I serve as the Regional Executive Director for the Maryland chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

MADD extends its gratitude to Senator Bailey for introducing this critical legislation. For those who haven't experienced the devastating impact of impaired driving firsthand, it may be shocking to learn that every 78 seconds, someone in the United States is killed or injured in a drunk driving crash. This statistic doesn't even account for crashes caused by other substances like cannabis or opioids.

The issue of impaired driving remains a significant and growing problem. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 207 people lost their lives in drunk driving crashes in Maryland in 2022—a 24% increase from 2019, when 167 such fatalities occurred.

MADD strongly supports Jamari's Law because it provides courts with the discretion to impose longer sentences for impaired driving crashes that result in the death of an innocent victim. Importantly, this legislation does not create mandatory minimum sentences of any kind. Instead, it empowers the judiciary to deliver justice and bring closure to victims and their families by ensuring that the punishment reflects the severity of the crime.

Jamari's Law is a victim-driven initiative designed to address the profound impact of impaired driving fatalities on Maryland roadways. By passing this bill, the state can take a meaningful step toward holding offenders accountable and supporting victims' pursuit of justice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for your time and attention. On behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, I respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 364.