

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0068

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Donnell G. Floyd Sr. I submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 0068, as a father who lost his son in a preventable motorcycle crash. On September 10, 2024, my life was forever changed when my son, Donnell G. Floyd Jr., was killed while riding his motorcycle. My son, known to many in the motorcycle community, as Torch, was a responsible rider who, like thousands of others across Maryland, depended on drivers to see him, respect him, and share the road safely. That did not happen.

There are no words that can fully express the pain of losing a child. It is a grief that does not fade, a silence that never leaves, and a future that was taken far too soon. Every day, my family and I live with the reality that my son will never come home again, and the loss of our son has forever changed my wife. What makes this loss even more devastating is knowing that his death was preventable. Motorcyclists do not have the same physical protection as drivers in passenger vehicles. They rely heavily on the awareness, attentiveness, and responsibility of others. Too often, drivers are distracted, unaware, or uneducated about how to safely share the road with motorcycles. Too often, especially at intersections, drivers “try” to make the left hand turn and when they are not successful, lives are lost – the life of the motorcyclist – the life of my son!

SB0068 directly addresses so many concerns in driver education. By requiring motorcycle safety awareness to be included in Maryland’s motor vehicle examinations, this bill ensures that drivers are informed, before they are licensed, about motorcycle visibility, safe following distances, rider vulnerability, and the potentially fatal consequences of inattention. Had this type of education and awareness been emphasized and required, my son’s life may have been spared.

This bill is not about punishment or blame. It is about prevention, responsibility, and saving lives. It recognizes that motorcycles are not objects on the road; they are people. Sons. Daughters. Fathers and Mothers. I cannot bring my son back. But I can use my voice to speak for him and for the many riders who no longer can. I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB0068. Doing so will honor the lives already lost and help prevent future families from experiencing the pain my family now lives with every day. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted, Donnell G. Floyd Sr. (Father)