

## ORAL AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today in strong support of Senate Bill SB0068, **the D TORCH Road Safety Act**.

My name is Jennifer Floyd. I am the Founder and CEO of the D TORCH Foundation, a non-profit organization I created **after losing my son Donnell G. Floyd Jr. (known as TORCH in the motorcycle community) in a motorcycle crash on September 10, 2024.**

Motorcyclists represent a small percentage of vehicles on our roads, yet they account for a disproportionate number of serious injuries and fatalities. **In Maryland alone, an average of 77 motorcycle riders and passengers are killed in traffic crashes every year, and nearly 1,000 motorcyclists are injured annually.** Nationally, motorcyclists are more than 20 times more likely to be killed in a crash than occupants of passenger vehicles

because motorcyclists are much more vulnerable in crashes than car occupants.

**One of the most dangerous places for motorcyclists is intersections (my son doesn't even know he didn't make it home). Many crashes occur not because drivers are reckless, but because they are not properly educated on how to safely share the road with motorcycles.**

Senate Bill SB0068 **addresses this gap directly.** It ensures that every new driver in Maryland is educated and tested on motorcycle safety awareness topics such as visibility, proper lane positioning, safe following distances, and other essential safety topics.

**This bill is about education, awareness, and prevention. It promotes a culture of shared responsibility and respect on Maryland roads.**

We have included a chart as written testimony showing motorcyclist injuries and fatalities for each county in Maryland over the past five years, using the most recent transportation data available.

My son is gone, but the D TORCH Foundation is advocating for every rider to make it home safely. **Every rider deserves to make it home. Every rider is someone's loved one. One life lost is one life too many.**

Please vote in favor of SB0068. Thank you for your time and consideration.