

Liz Marks and Betty Shaw  
Don't Text N Drive 4 Liz Marks

February 27, 2020

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

**Senate Bill 819- Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems – Authorization - Support**

Dear Chairperson Smith and Members of the Committee:



This is a picture of my daughter Liz one month before her life changing car accident. She is taking the all too familiar selfie. March 2012.

In 2012 reading articles in our local paper about the rise in teen car accidents due to cell phone use behind the wheel I warned Liz about the dangers and told her to never use her phone when driving. She swore to me she didn't.

I did not know at the time she was lying to me.

Being confident my daughter never used her cell phone when driving {she swore!}. I responded to a text message she sent me with a text back to her. The text read – OK---. That was it. Just two simple letters.



This is what happened to Liz while she was reading my text message to her. It is a photo of her actual car accident. She is still in the car dying at that very moment.

Because of that ONE SIMPLE TEXT Liz's life was destroyed. My life was destroyed.



I went from seeing a vibrant, young adult with her whole life ahead of her. To seeing my daughter clinging to life! I remember telling her how much I loved her and begged her to stay here on earth with me. I did not know at the time the cause of this catastrophic almost fatal car accident was because she was reading my text.

Bill SB-819 that provides a photo copy of someone driving distracted would be a warning or wakeup call in the mail. This bill could help avert other parents from experiencing tragic results of distracted driving.

Please pass this bill and save lives.

Sincerely,

Betty Shaw / Don't Text N Drive 4 Liz Marks