



I am writing on behalf of the Partnership for a Safer Maryland to support SB819: Distracted Driving Systems.

There has been tremendous progress in making the roads safer for drivers in the United States. However, operating a motor vehicle remains one of the most dangerous activities that the average American engages in on a regular basis. Our intense need to be connected at all times has contributed to the development of risky behaviors, including texting while driving.

The National Safety Council reports that cellphone use while driving leads to 1.6 million crashes annually. Nearly 25% of crashes in the United States can be attributed to texting while driving, resulting in 390,000 injuries occur each year.

Technology, including speed and red light cameras have been shown to be effective in reducing risky driving behavior, and similar technology should be optimized to address cell phone use while driving.

Changing behavior around texting while driving will reduce motor vehicle accidents, reduce injuries and save lives. This will make the roads safer for all Marylanders, which is why the Partnership for a Safer Maryland supports the goals of SB819.

Sincerely,

Marianne Gibson

President