

Written Testimony of Victoria Brown  
In Support of SB870  
February 27, 2020

My name is Victoria Brown, and I want to tell the story of my son Darius J. Brown. When he was 12 years old his life was taken by a drunk driver and my life has never been the same. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004, my family and I were coming home from a Drive-in-Movie in Chase Maryland when we were struck on 895 in the middle of the night by a drunk driver going the speed in between 100-125mph. Our vehicle did a couple of 360s and we spun over a few times and landed in the middle of a median. My husband, daughter and I sustained only minimal injuries along with my son's best friend. My son Darius was the only one in the car killed on impact.

Darius was the most giving, loving, and compassionate boy that you would've ever met. He was kind and caring, intelligent and smart beyond his years. When he was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade he and five other students were enrolled in a program called BOOST at their elementary school. In this program they worked on science and math on a higher level, and because they were so smart, they also took courses at the community college two-nights a week in those same subjects. The intent was to prepare them to graduate high school a lot earlier than expected.

Darius was a stellar athlete. Not just on the field but off as well, one day after practice he got into the car and didn't have on his cleats and when I asked where his cleats were, he said he had given them to someone who needed them because they didn't have any. "Mommy I knew you would buy me a new pair and he needed them." Is what he told me, that only goes to show half of the compassion Darius gave.

God blessed me with not only Darius but my daughter Aaliyah too. And Darius was the best big brother to Aaliyah that any mother could witness for her two children. Darius's caring and loving nature was shown mostly at home. There wasn't a moment I didn't hear the two of them laughing and playing together. A sound I'll never forget, that always feeds my soul. Darius loved to read to his baby sister, feed and play with her. He always knew to protect her and to this day watches over her. His love for his baby sister was unmatched.

In conclusion, I honor Darius every time I speak his name and tell his story, so I fight this fight not only for Darius but for all victims. And in truth, I am Darius's voice because his was taken by a drunk driver. I know in hearts of all hearts by passing this legislation that this act is preventable and can save lives.

Thank you,

Victoria Brown