

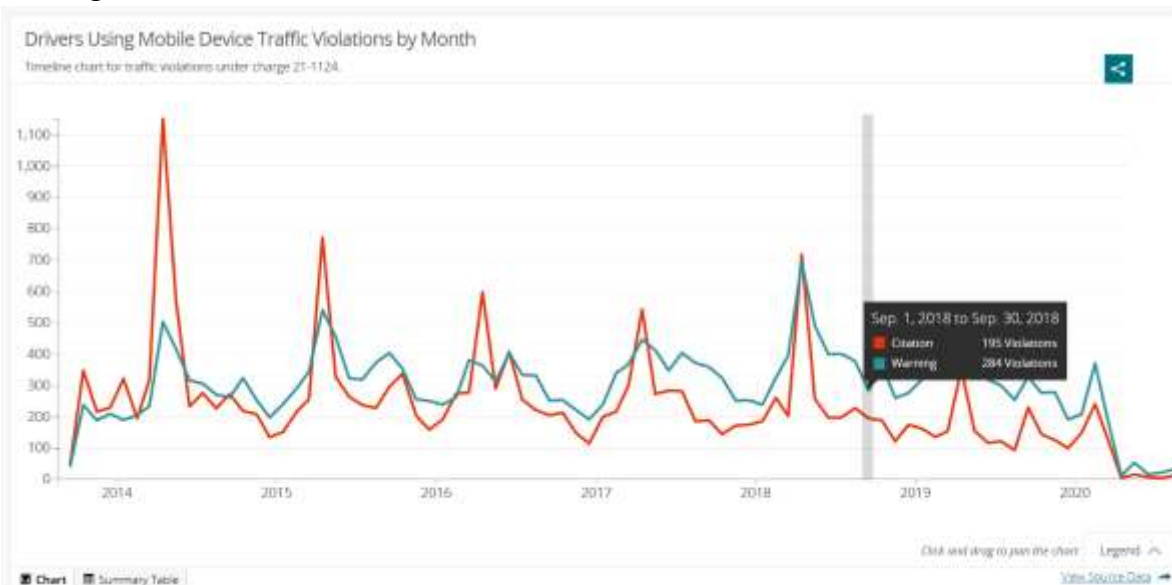
Witness testimony

Support HB1082, Vehicle Laws – Enforcement and Use of Real–Time Digital Spotters

Committee,

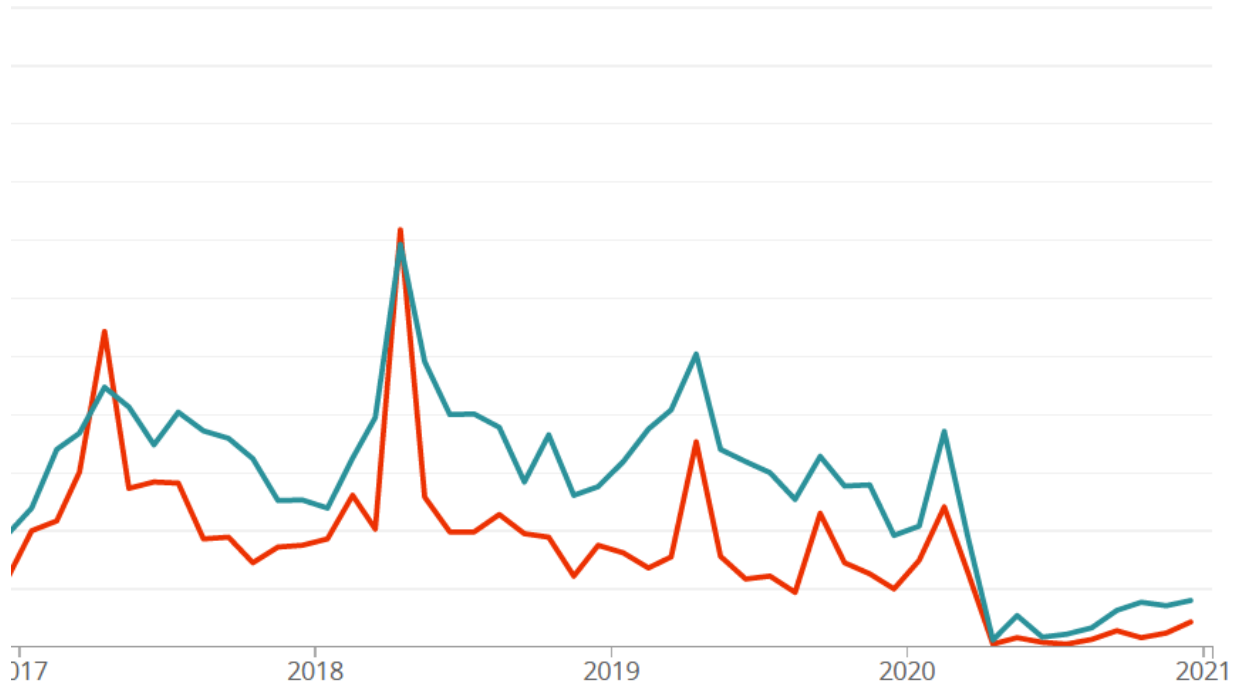
I hope that you will support the passage of HB1082, to allow for technology in the enforcement of distracted driving laws. Thank you to Delegate Lopez for bringing this bill to the House.

Our roads are deadly for a variety of reasons, but one of the main ones is an army of distracted drivers coming into conflict with each other, and with vulnerable road users. I am a frequent pedestrian and occasional bicyclist. I have been nearly run over in crosswalks by cars that have a mysterious blue glow lighting the driver's side of the interior. On one occasion, a driver drove so close to me with her window down that I could see the Facebook homepage on the phone she was holding in her left hand, while turning the steering wheel with her right hand, narrowly avoiding driving over my foot. At the intersection nearest our home, my wife and I take our baby for walks in a stroller through the crosswalk, using the pedestrian button to turn the permanent flashing yellow signal into a hard red light. We have to exercise extreme caution, because about one in every 20 signals, a driver will just sail right through the red light long after it changed.



Montgomery County's open data portal tracks data on distracted driving violations. There appears to be an annual spike in enforcement in April of each year. But in a typical month, only about 5-6 citations are given each day, and about 10 warnings are given. You could stand at an

intersection waiting to cross on foot for 3 minutes and count 16 people on their phones. People are driving distracted with complete impunity.



You will also note from this chart that the number of citations hit a low of 5 for the entire month of April 2020, likely due to the pandemic. By December 2020, that number rose to 43 violations. In order to keep our streets safe, we need to allow for the use of technology to detect these violations, because what we're doing now is woefully inadequate. There are many others testifying because they have experienced a traumatic loss. Let's change our laws so that we can prevent these losses and keep families from suffering.

Please support this bill, HB1082. Thank you.

Daniel and Amy Marcin

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