

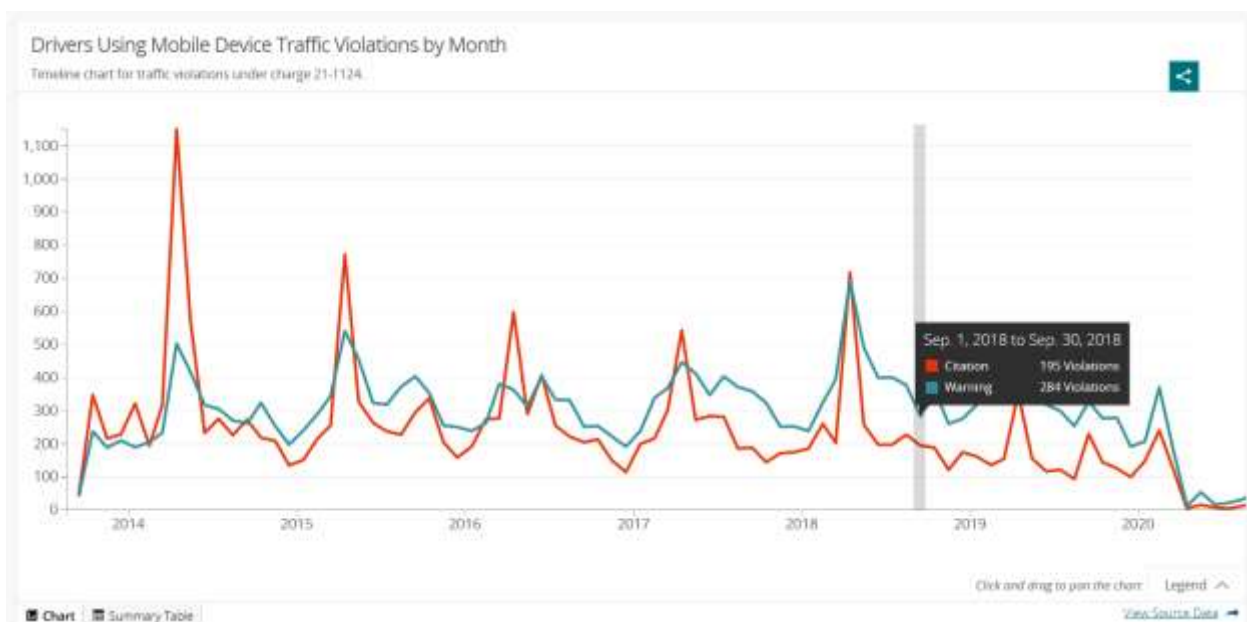
Witness testimony

Support SB0179, Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems – Authorization

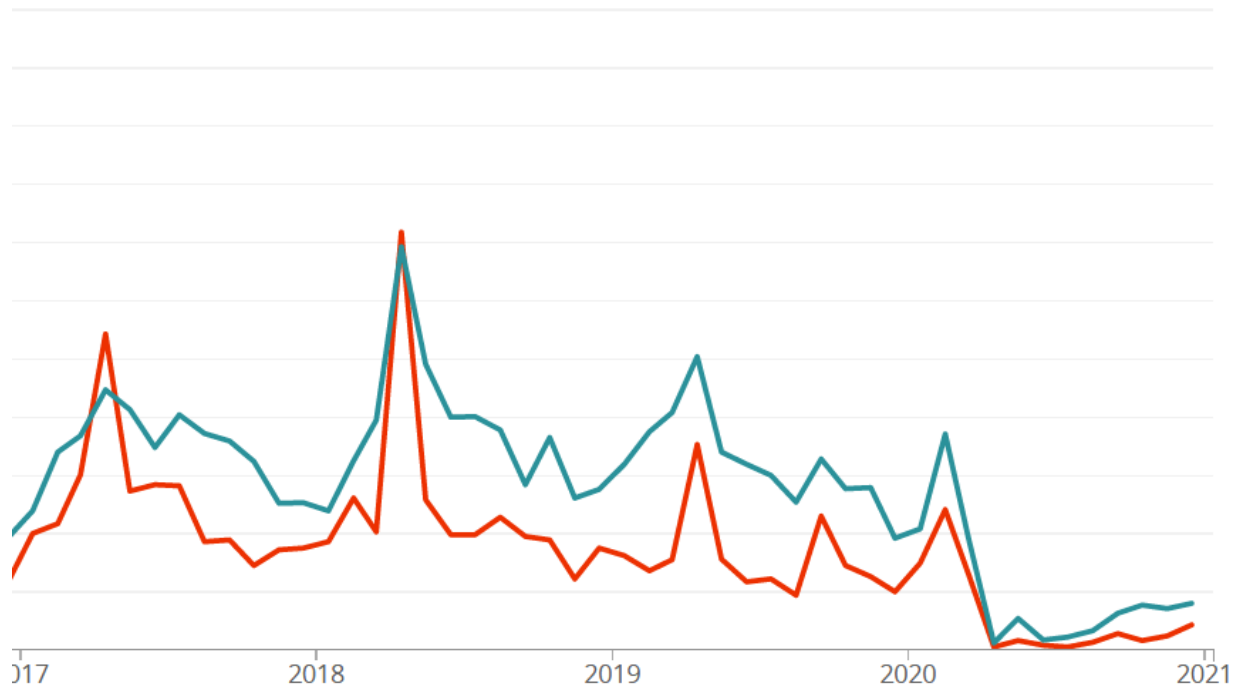
Committee,

I hope that you will support the passage of SB0179, to allow for camera enforcement of distracted driving. Currently, the police must enforce distracted driving laws. This is not an ideal system for many reasons. First, the police are not the best agency to enforce traffic laws. They use their discretion, and not always prudently. The law sometimes applies to some citizens and not to others. Furthermore, road safety is just not a priority for many police officers.

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 an average 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, rather than relying on an uninterested police force that enforces the law inconsistently and one person at a time. Please support this bill, SB0179. Thank you.



Daniel and Amy Marcin
Wheaton, MD 20902