

Senator William Smith
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Senate Bill 179- Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems- SUPPORT

Senator Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. My name is Norman McCarthy. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 179.

I don't know where to begin because I have a lot to say but not a lot of time, so I'll start here. I was involved in a crash on August 25, 2017 that changed my life. I was left with prolonged post-concussion syndrome after being rear ended while sitting at a stop sign by someone who was texting on their phone.

Among my intense symptoms were dizziness, migraines, nausea, vertigo, sensitivity to light and insomnia and ended up being out of work for over 6 months and was unable to drive myself to doctor visits. I was treated by one of the top neurologists in Baltimore who explored every avenue to try to relieve my symptoms including using medications, treatments, and cognitive therapy. My business, which I have worked at growing for 27 years began to slip away and was cut in half because of my inability to deal with daily tasks which I still struggle with, some days are better than others. As if losing everything I had worked for my whole life wasn't enough, on September 10, 2019 I literally lost my life as well for 23 minutes during my second back surgery as a result of an injury to my back during the crash. The doctors believe that after my first back surgery, I built up antibodies to the anesthesia causing an allergic reaction during my second surgery after anesthesia was administered. I had pulseless electrical activity and stopped my heart for 23 minutes. A code blue was called but the protocol that they administered was not working. Thank God for DR. Heath Gould, because since I was already intubated and had brain activity, he decided to not give up and gave chest compressions for over 20 minutes when by some miracle my heart resumed beating.

Fortunately for me, I'm here to testify, while others are not so fortunate, so please let my voice be heard, and give those that we've lost their say. Please vote for Senate Bill 179, Drive Safe Distracted Driving.

Norman McCarthy