



ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.

Dedicated to the Freedom of the Road and Responsible Motorcycle Legislation

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr. Chairman and Members of the
Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Executive Director, Kenneth V. Sawyer, Abate of Maryland, Inc.

DATE: January 16, 2021

RE: **SB17 – Criminal Law – Life–Threatening Injury Involving a
Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence (Wade’s Law)**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

ABATE of Maryland has been lobbying for bills like SB0017 since our inception in 1974. As the voice of motorcyclists throughout the state of Maryland, we are in favor of Wade’s Law/SB0017. This bill seeks to hold persons accountable for their criminal negligence which causes life threatening injuries. The current law only provides for payment of a fine which trivializes the damages suffered by the victims of criminal negligence. Passage of this bill, which adds the imposition of jail time and increases the fine to \$5,000 for this very serious misconduct, may deter some drivers/operators and, when those actions are not deterred, it provides a measure of justice for the victim.

We respectfully request a favorable vote for SB0017, which has passed in the Senate in previous years, and hope this will be the year that this very important bill becomes law.