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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Systems- SUPPORT

Re: HB 1082/SB 863 – Enforcement and Use of Real-Time Digital Spotters

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members

My name is Jacy Good and every day of my life for nearly twelve years has been shaped by distracted driving. I grew up in farm country Pennsylvania; the daughter of a teacher and a mechanic, college was only an option if I managed to get the scholarships to pay for it. Hard work and unceasing support from my parents, Jean and Jay, made that happen. I fell in love with my now husband early in our freshman year, finished with an AmeriCorps position lined up with Habitat For Humanity and in May 2008 we graduated with plans for marriage, children and a happily ever after. Yet just hours after the ceremony along that 90-minute drive to our home we were struck by a fully loaded tractor-trailer as he swerved to avoid a driver who, after stopping at a red light, was so distracted by his phone call that he then attempted to turn left into the intersection as my family and that truck approached our green lights.

My parents, at 58 years old, were killed on impact. I'm only still here because a series of small miracles and impeccable medical care aligned in those ensuing minutes exactly as perfectly as the imperfect confluence of events that had preceded them. And though a traumatic brain injury has left me permanently unable to use the left side of my body, my I've spent the years since then standing in front of audiences trying to use my story to actually impact the choices people make behind the wheel.

There is only so much an advocate like myself can accomplish - even with over 1,100 speaking engagements, a viral video and innumerable media appearances under my belt. But those in your position have a power to impact millions of people in one fell swoop, and I urge you to pass this bill and allow communities to take their next step, if they choose to do so.

For a long time I was tortured by "what ifs". If it had taken my dad another 30 seconds to get one box into our car before leaving school that day then maybe today they'd be enjoying retirement, enjoying grandchildren...I sure would have had a father to walk me down the aisle a few years later.

A technology like this, had it been available and employed in 2008, may very well have altered that driver's decisions and eliminated the far-reaching negative ripple that his phone use caused. Mine was one crash on one day. But every day there so, so many more that kill and hurt the people around us. It's hard to find a person nowadays who doesn't know that phone use while driving is dangerous, yet surveys all show that acknowledging the danger doesn't stop people from doing it anyway. We must take further steps. Can you look someone like me in the eyes and tell me your perceived privacy outweighs the lives of my parents? Nobody has the right to put the people we love in harm's way, and every devastating, family-destroying crash that happens while there are clear measures to prevent them is on the shoulders of the people who failed to act when the power to enact change was presented. Please act.

Respectfully,  
Jacy Good, Founder, Hang Up And Drive

Jacy Good  
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