

SB 279 Written Statement - Jacy Good and Steve Joh

Uploaded by: Good, Jacy

Position: FAV



Jacy Good and Steve Johnson
254 Martine Avenue, #4C
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 512 - 5194
jacyandsteve@hangupanddrive.com

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

Re: SB 179- Distracted Driving Monitoring

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 1/6/21

Hang Up And Drive, Inc.
www.hangupanddrive.com

HB 179- Russell Hurd Testimony-converted.pdf

Uploaded by: Hurd, Russell

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL HURD-

SENATE BILL 179- DISTRACTED DRIVING MONITORING SYSTEMS SUPPORT

MR CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

MY NAME IS RUSSELL HURD AND I RESIDE IN HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND.

BEFORE I BEGIN MY REMARKS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK EACH OF YOU TO CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR JUST A FEW SECONDS AND PICTURE SOMEONE YOU LOVE WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING, SOMEONE THAT YOU ADORE, SOMEONE THAT YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE. KEEP THAT PERSON IN YOUR THOUGHTS AS I SPEAK WITH YOU THIS MORNING.

ON MARCH 10 1981 I BECAME A FATHER FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME WHEN MY DAUGHTER HEATHER WAS BORN. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL IN EVERY WAY AND A TRUE GIFT TO HER VERY YOUNG PARENTS.

SHE WALKED AND TALKED BEFORE HER TIME, SHE BECAME A STRAIGHT A STUDENT IN SCHOOL, SHE LEARNED TO PLAY THE FLUTE AND GUITAR. THERE SEEMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THAT OUR LITTLE GIRL COULD NOT DO.

FROM A VERY EARLY AGE OUR HEATHER FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MAGIC OF DISNEY. SHE LOVED THE MOVIES, THE MUSIC AND THE CHARACTERS, ESPECIALLY THE ORNERY ONES OR FOR SOME REASON THE VILLAINS. HER FAVORITE CHARACTER WAS STITCH FROM LILO AND STITCH AND THERE WAS NEVER A TIME WHEN SHE SAW HIM THAT SHE DIDN'T GIGGLE HER VERY SPECIAL GIGGLE THAT MEANT THE WORLD TO HER MOM AND I.

AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, AS ONE OF OUR FAMILY VACATIONS AT WDW WAS ENDING WE LOOKED DOWN TO NOTICE HEATHER WAS CRYING. WE ASKED WHY SHE WAS SAD AND SHE REPLIED THAT SHE HATED TO LEAVE BUT THAT ONE DAY SHE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO LEAVE BECAUSE SHE WOULD LIVE IN FLORIDA AND WORK AT THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE ON EARTH.

FAST FORWARD NOW A FEW YEARS. OUR HEATHER IS NOW A YOUNG WOMAN, AND HER DREAM WAS COMING TRUE. SHE WAS CHOSEN OUT OF HUNDREDS OF CANDIDATES FOR A INTERNSHIP AT WDW. SHE WAS MOVING TO FLORIDA. ALTHOUGH WE WERE SAD THAT SHE WAS MOVING AWAY WE WERE THRILLED THAT SHE WAS MAKING HER DREAMS COME TRUE.

LIKE EVERY LITTLE GIRL, HEATHER DREAMED OF HER WEDDING DAY. SHE DREAMED OF THE WHITE DRESS. SHE DREAMED OF BEING CINDERELLA. IN THE FALL OF 2007 HEATHER BECAME ENGAGED RIGHT AT OUR FAMILIES FAVORITE PLACE AT THE MAGIC KINGDOM. PLANS FOR HER DREAM WEDDING COULD NOW BEGIN.

JANUARY 3, 2008 DAWNED AS A DAY OF ANTICIPATION, OF EXCITEMENT, OF DREAMS ABOUT TO COME TRUE. THIS COLD JANUARY DAY WOULD BEGIN THE PLANS FOR OUR HEATHER'S MAGICAL DREAM WEDDING.

MY WIFE SON AND I TRAVELED TO FLORIDA TO MEET HEATHER AND HER FIANCE PATRICK AT DISNEYS WEDDING PLANNER. THIS MEETING WAS TO TAKE PLACE AT NOON THAT DAY.

I REMEMBER SITTIING OUTSIDE THE WEDDING PAVILION AS NOON CAME AND WENT. A NERVOUSNESS SET IN AS HEATHER WAS NEVER LATE TO ANYTHING. WE WAITED AND WAITED UNTIL THE WEDDING PLANNER TOLD US OF A CRASH INVOLVING OUR HEATHER.

WE HURRIED BACK TO OUR DISNEY RESORT AND DROVE THE BACK AND FORTH ON FLORIDA ROADS SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ON OUR BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER. FINALLY WE WERE TOLD TO DRIVE TO ORLANDO REGIONAL HOSPITAL TO IDENDIFY A VICTIM OF THE CRASH THAT RESEMBLED OUR DAUGHTERS DESCRIPTION. WE WERE TOLD THAT SHE WAS DECEASED. WE DROVE OFF IN SHOCK TOWARDS THE HOSPITAL ONLY TO RECEIVE ANOTHER CALL FROM THE HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN SAYING THAT THE VICTIM WAS IDENTIFIED AND IT WAS NOT OUR DAUGHTER. FOR A VERY BRIEF SECOND WE TOOK A DEEP BREATH UNTIL THE WORDS NO PARENT WANTS TO HEAR CAME THRU THE PHONE. "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND" YOUR DAUGHTER DIED AT THE SCENE OF THE CRASH.

LATER WE WERE TOLD THAT THE REASON OUR DAUGHTER WAS GONE WAS THAT SHE WAS HIT ALONG WITH 8 OTHER VEHICLES STOPPED AT A TRAFFIC SIGNAL BY A TRACTOR TRAILER WHO NEVER APPLIED HIS BRAKES AND SLAMMED INTO THE CARS AT 65 MILES PER HOUR. THE REASON THIS PROFESSIONAL DRIVER DID NOT NOTICE THE 9 VEHICLES STOPPED AT THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL? HE WAS TEXTING HIS COMPANY AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH!!

WE WERE IN DISBELIEF!

BECAUSE OF SOMEONE TEXTING WHILE DRIVING I WILL NEVER WALK MY DAUGHTER DOWN THE AISLE OF HER WEDDING DAY.

BECAUSE OF SOMEONE DRIVING DISTRACTED I WILL NEVER DRIVE THAT SPECIAL FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE AT HER WEDDING.

BECAUSE OF SOMEONE DRIVING DISTRACTED WE WILL NEVER HEAR MY DAUGHTERS SPECIAL GIGGLE EVER AGAIN.

13 YEARS AGO WE MADE IT OUR FAMILIES MISSION TO SAVE LIVES ON OUR ROADWAYS AND TO END DISTRACTED DRIVING FOREVER. 13 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE FIRST TESTIFIED HERE IN ANNAPOLIS FOR A BILL INTRODUCED BY THEN DELEGATE JEFF WALDSTREICHER TO BAN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING. MORE THAN A DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE WE WERE FINALLY SUCCESSFUL IN PASSING MARYLANDS TEXTING AND HEANDHELD CELL PHONE BAN. THESE LAWS, THOUGH NOT PERFECT HAVE INDEED SAVED LIVES AND EVEN IF THAT NUMBER IS ONE, WE KNOW THAT IT HAS BEEN WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. TODAY WE ONCE AGAIN ARE HEAR TO SAVE A LIFE, TO SAVE ONE FAMILY THE ANGUISH MY FAMILY WILL FOREVER FEEL. TO KEEP FAMILIES INTACT. I STRONGLY URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 179

sb0179_distraction_witness.pdf

Uploaded by: Marcin, Daniel

Position: FAV

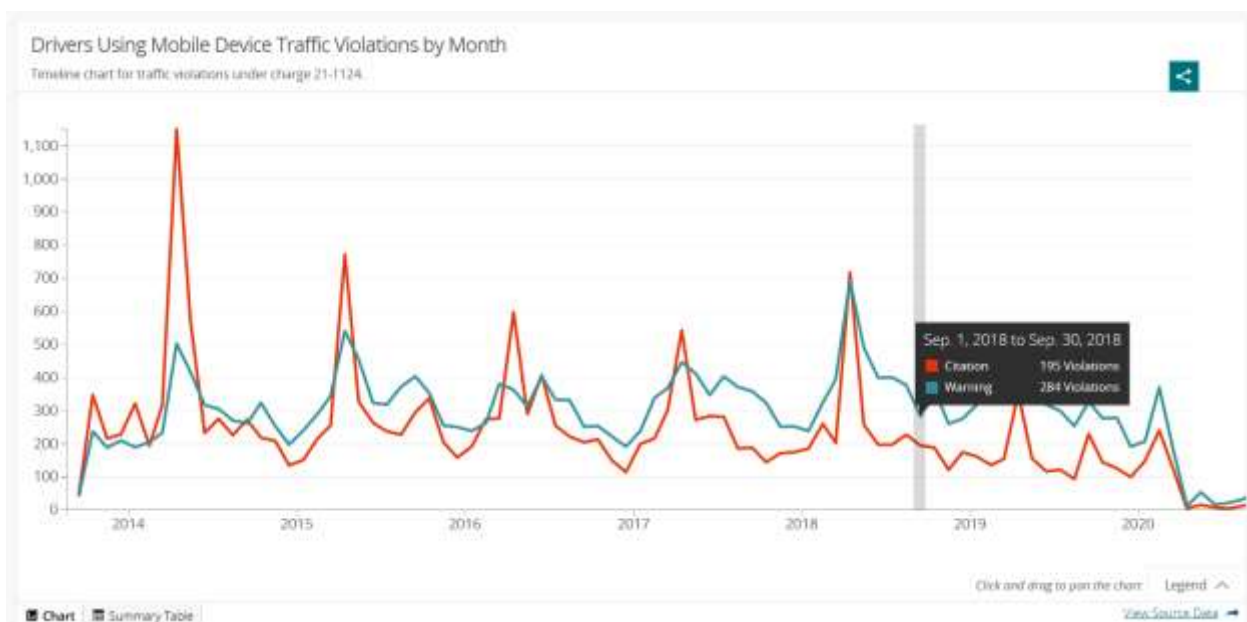
Witness testimony

Support SB0179, Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems – Authorization

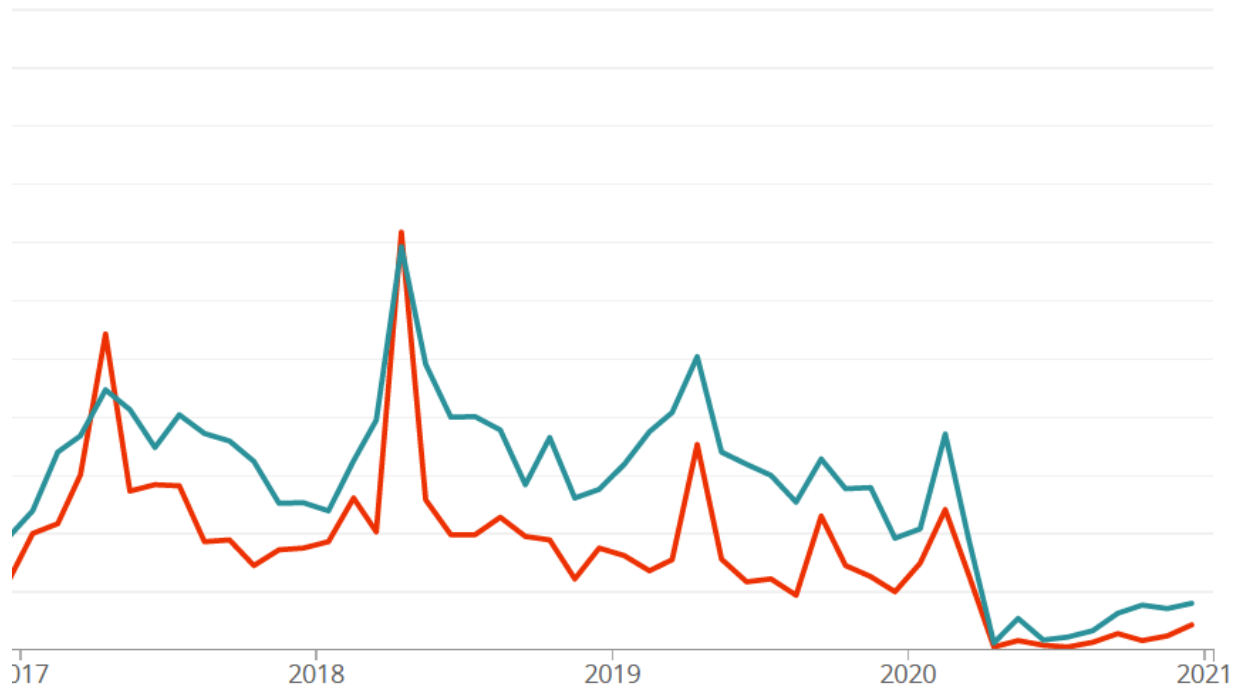
Committee,

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

SB 179 Norman McCarthy Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: McCarthy, Norman

Position: FAV

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

SB179 - Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems-Auth

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FAV



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB 179 - “Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems – Authorization”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: January 27, 2021

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB 179, which would authorize certain state agencies to place distracted driver monitoring systems on certain highways. The bill would require that these systems record two or more photographs of the driver as well as the registration plate number of the motor vehicle. The driver or owner of the motor vehicle whose image shows cell phone use while driving would be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500.

Transportation is now the primary contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in our state. Tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks are also a major source of health-damaging air pollution. This means there is growing need to get individuals out of their cars, and taking transit, riding bikes, and walking more. However, biking and walking along busy roads is not as safe as it should be, and a major reason for that is too many drivers use their cell phones while driving.

We live in a car-centric culture where transportation planning, road infrastructure and vehicle laws are focused on getting vehicles to their destinations as swiftly as possible. Unfortunately, the use of cell phones for texting or calls while driving has become part of that culture. It has been made illegal, but enforcement cannot keep up with the frequency of the offense on our roadways. As a result, too many drivers as well as pedestrians, bicyclists and others lawfully operating on or beside the road are seriously injured or killed.

This bill could help bring about needed change. It incorporates distracted driving monitoring systems into the legal framework that already exists for speed monitoring systems and other electronic methods for monitoring driver behavior, capturing violations of traffic laws and punishing them through an existing system of civil fines. Hopefully, distracted driving monitoring systems would lead to more detection and enforcement of bans on cell phone use while driving and thus to safer roads for other drivers, bikers, and pedestrians.

In summary, this bill would address a significant problem on our roadways, and we urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on it.

Susan Nerlinger
Transportation Committee
SJnerlinger@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

SB 179 Written Statement - J. Weaver-converted.pdf

Uploaded by: Weaver, Jennifer

Position: FAV

STATEMENT OF
Jennifer Weaver, Distracted Driving Prevention Advocate,
In Support of the Authorization of Distracted Driving Monitoring Systems
January 1, 2021

Greetings. My name is Jennifer Weaver from North Beach, Maryland, and I am pleased to write to you today in support of the authorization of distracted driving monitoring systems.

Distracted driving is a major public health problem on our Nation's roads. The use of mobile phones while driving can result in cognitive distraction that is as impairing as drunk driving. Studies have shown that crash risk can be as much as four times higher when a driver is using a mobile phone. In fact, sending or receiving a text message can cause a driver to divert their eyes from the road for an average of nearly five seconds. When traveling at 55 miles per hour that is enough time to cover the length of an entire football field – all while your eyes are not on the road.

This dangerous action can have deadly consequences. In 2018, the latest year for which data is available, nearly three thousand people were killed and approximately 400,000 more were injured nationwide in crashes involving a distracted driver. Crashes in which at least one driver was identified as being distracted also impose an annual economic cost on society of approximately \$40 billion, and we know that these numbers do not paint the whole picture considering underreporting of these type of crashes.

More can and must be done to prevent distracted driving crashes, and let me be clear – these are not accidents. Distracted driving is preventable and there are known actions which can curb these needless tragedies. The authorization of distracted driving monitoring systems is one of those actions. This would allow local jurisdictions to adopt the use of distracted driving monitoring systems that employ technology which captures images of drivers texting or talking on a cell phone. Such violations would then result in the issuance of a civil citation. By enacting such monitoring systems, the hope is that incidents of distracted driving would decrease in the same manner that speeding has decreased in areas where speed monitoring systems are in place.

At a time when multitasking and cell phone addiction have become the norm, no one thinks they will be the one to cause a distracted driving crash. No one gets into his or her car thinking, "I am going to answer a call or read a text while driving and kill someone as a consequence." However, I am here to tell you that it can happen to anyone and all it takes is a split-second decision to take your eyes off the road. On December 22, 2015, I was the at-fault driver in a crash that resulted in a fatality in Charles County. A car was stopped to make a left-hand turn, and while I do not have a recollection of the moments leading up to the crash itself, it was determined by investigators that I was looking down at my phone when I rear-ended that car, pushing it into oncoming traffic. The occupant was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A loved one was lost that day. A wonderful, vital member of a family no longer walks this Earth because of me. So many tragic consequences have come to bear because my eyes were not on the road for five seconds. I carry sorrow and guilt on my heart that I doubt will ever be lifted, so I join other distracted driving prevention advocates to share my story because I have made it my life's mission to educate about the dangers of distracted driving, to push for the passage of legislation such as the authorization of distracted driving monitoring systems, and to urge all to put away your devices and stay focused on the responsibilities of driving.

Thank you.