



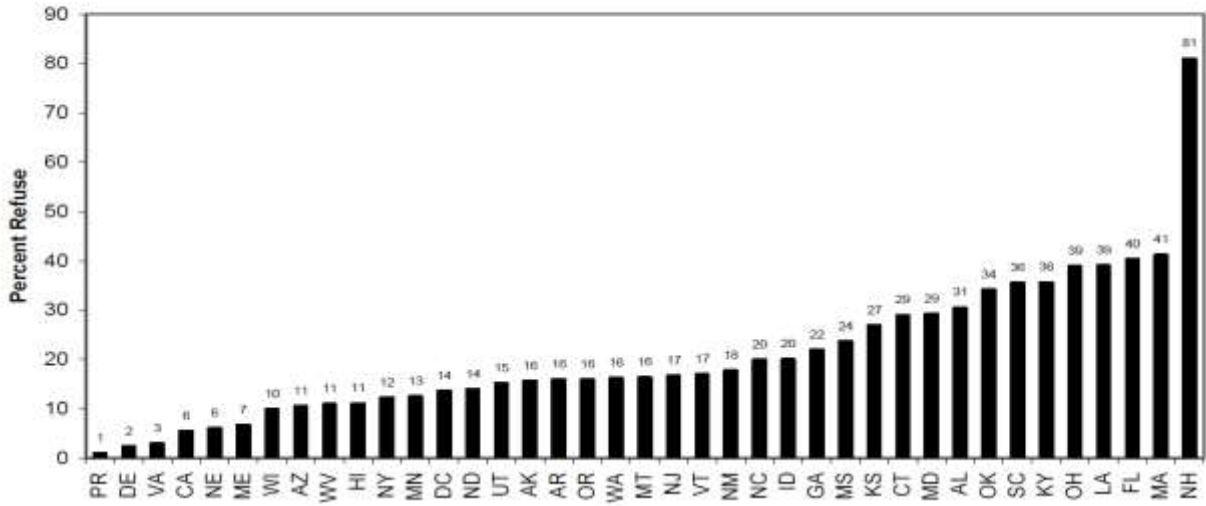
**Robin Stimson
Victim Services Manager
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Assembly Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of House Bill 0927
March 3, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 927 giving law enforcement the option to obtain search warrants suspected DWI offenders who refuse a chemical test. MADD thanks you, Delegate Arian, for your sponsorship for this bill.

MADD supports HB 927 because suspected drunk and drugged drivers should not be allowed to refuse a chemical test. Conservative estimates show impaired drivers have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are first arrested. HB 927 will help enforce Maryland's impaired driving law while also holding impaired drivers accountable for the potentially deadly choice to drive drunk.

Maryland's fight against impaired driving is not over. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2019, there were 167 people killed in crashes caused by a drunk driving representing 32 percent of all total traffic deaths. MADD supports HB 927 as this measure gives law enforcement and prosecutors the necessary tools to hold suspected impaired drivers accountable for their careless choice. The legislation ensures safer streets while protecting Constitutional Rights of all people of Maryland.

Figure 1. Breath Test Refusal Rates, 2005



Refusals to submit a chemical test is a problem in the United States. The chart above is from an enclosed 2009 report to Congress entitled “Refusal of Intoxication Testing” which shows that typically one out of every five arrested drunk drivers will refuse a chemical test. Compared to other states, more than one of every three people arrested for suspected impaired driving, refuse to submit to a test. This is above the national average. Maryland has a refusal problem as noted in the cart below.

Maryland DWI Arrests and Refusals

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Drivers Offered Test	20,089	19,326	18,954	18,762	18,983
Drivers Tested	13,440	12,661	12,421	12,123	11,979
Drivers Refused Test	6,649	6,665	6,537	6,639	7004
Refusal Rate	33.1%	34.5%	34.5%	35.4%	36.9%

Source: Compiled from Maryland State Police, *Alcohol Influence and PBT Use Summary Reports*

Without a legislative remedy, law enforcement and prosecutors remain at an extreme disadvantage in their ability to keep Maryland roadways safe. The refusal rates will continue climb in Maryland unless if lawmakers take action.

In conclusion, MADD encourages this committee to advance HB 927 and give law enforcement and prosecutors the full ability to request search warrants in order to hold suspected impaired drivers accountable for risking the lives of Maryland residents by making the choice to drive drunk. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony before this distinguished committee.

MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

ONE IS TOO MANY



MADD National President,
Alex Otte
Injured due to impaired
boating crash
in 2010



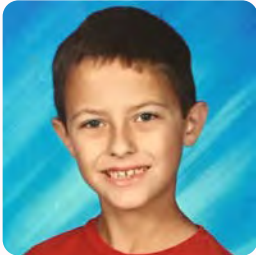
Jami Leigh Smith
Killed by a drunk driver
in 1987



Darius Brown (far right)
Killed by a drunk driver
in 2004
(The entire Brown Family was
injured in the same crash)



Rory Weichbrod (far left)
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2010



Matthew Murphy
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2018



The Kalnasy Family
(from left; Katie, Chris and Angie)
Severely Injured Due to an Drunk
and Drugged Driver
in 2016



Joey Meiklejohn
Killed by a Drugged Driver
in 2017



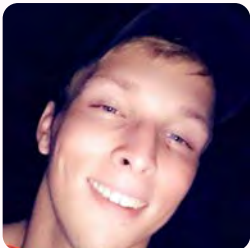
Sgt. Mark F. Parry
Killed by a Drunk Driver
2002



Raymond Quartuci
Killed by a Drugged Driver
in 2018



Karen Joyce Davis
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2000



Allen Welch
Killed by a Drunk and Drugged
Driver
in 2019



Raymond McCarter, Jr.
Killed by an Impaired Driver
in 2019



Glencia Cain
Killed by a Drunk Driver in
1979



Jhoanna Nicole Caballero
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2018



Natasha Hudson
Killed by a Drunk Driver in
2018



Taylor Halbleib
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2017



Ethan Ruefly (center)
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2018



Kayla and Daniel Amos
Killed by a Drugged Driver
in 2016



Marc Alexander, Sr.
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2020



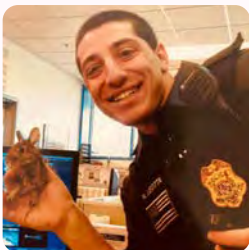
Jon Bos
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2020



Christian Guerreiro (center)
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2018



The Mejia Family
Twins Alexander Mejia and
Rosalie Mejia, and Isaac Mejia
Killed in 2018
(Parents Alexis and Juanita
survived, but were injured in
the same crash)



Officer Noah Leotta
Killed by a Drunk Driver
in 2015