

LAUREN ARIKAN  
Legislative District 7  
Baltimore and Harford Counties

DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Judiciary Committee



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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 1, 2021

**Support HB 927- Drunk and Drugged Driving- Testing – Warrants ( Danshaun’s Law)**

Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and my fellow Judiciary Committee Members,

HB 927 Danshaun’ Law was named after Danshaun Wells, a 14 year old boy who was killed while crossing the street to get a cold drink on a summer evening. He was killed by a driver who could have been impaired but since testing was not done at the scene, the driver’s impairment status will never be known.

The current law authorizes an officer to take a blood draw only if the accident involves a life-threatening injury or fatality, even if the officer suspects the driver is impaired. For other cases that don’t fit this criteria, the law is currently being interpreted by some as a prohibition on a search warrant for a blood draw. HB 927 would allow the officer to use his discretion be able to move forward with obtaining a warrant for testing to remove the impaired driver from the road and save the lives of innocent pedestrians, like Danshaun, and other drivers.

I urge a favorable report of this legislation that would improve public safety for all Marylanders by getting more drunk and drugged drivers off the roads. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arikan".

Lauren C. Arikan

Delegate, District 7