

BikeAAASupportSB25.pdf

Uploaded by: Jon Korin

Position: FAV



Support SB25 Must Appear Violation

Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
P.O. Box 208, Arnold, MD 21012 www.bikeaaa.org

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

January 14, 2022

RE: SUPPORT Senate Bill 25

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of District 33, president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County ("BikeAAA"), Chair of the Anne Arundel County Bicycle Advisory Commission, Member of the 2017 Maryland Bicycle Safety Task Force and avid Maryland cyclist for over 20 years. On behalf of BikeAAA and its more than 1,000 members, I support SB25. This bill requires a driver who kills someone through reckless or negligent driving to appear in court. There are gaps in current Maryland traffic laws that consider only the degree of negligence and do not consider the consequence to the victim. This law fills one of those gaps and thereby strengthens deterrence while providing an increased measure of justice for the victim's family.

Please support SB25 to improve safety and justice while reducing fatalities on Maryland roads.

Sincerely,

Jon Korin
President, Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County
Tel: 443-685-4103

SB0025_MustAppear_KEaton-MSA_Testimony_02Jan2022.p

Uploaded by: Ken Eaton

Position: FAV

2021 / 2022 Director
Ken Eaton

2021 / 2022 County Representatives
Caroline: Jeff Kinnamon
Dorchester: John Knox
Queen Anne's: Marianne Jackson
Talbot: Jimmy Mountzalia



Dedicated to Freedom of the Road

January 12, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Chairman
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 0025 - Reckless and Negligent Driving
Death of Another - Must-Appear Violation
(Sherry's And Christopher's Law)

Dear Chairman Smith;

As a motorcyclist, a member of ABATE of Maryland, Inc., and the Director of the Mid-Shore Chapter, representing Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties, I am urging you to support SB 0025 – Sherry's and Christopher's Law. I have been a motorcyclist, travelling through 30+ states in the past 30+ years.

The SB 0025 bill indicates *“providing that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that contributes to an accident that results in the death of another person must appear in court and may not prepay the fine”*. This is a bill that is near and dear to our Mid-Shore Chapter as well and the entire membership of ABATE of Maryland, Inc. On August 30, 2006, our State Executive Director, Marty Schultz, was killed in a motorcycle accident that involved a car running a stop sign. Marty was knocked off his motorcycle while travelling in his lane and died from his injuries. The vehicle driver received a ticket, paid the fine and never had to appear in court. Marty left behind a wife, 2 beautiful daughters, both of his parents and countless friends and neighbors. Marty was the Mid-Shore Director for many years before he became Executive Director of ABATE of Maryland, Inc.

ABATE requested and assisted with “right-of-way” bills in 2006 and 2007 with no success. In 2008, we were able to get SB 712 passed. However, it did not include a provision for “must appear.” We strongly feel that no one should be able to receive a minor traffic violation, or no violation at all, when an accident that they caused results in severe injury or death. They should not be able to pay a ticket to avoid going to court. They should be required to appear in court and defend the charges against them. We are not requesting a mandatory penalty, just that they would be required to appear in court. This is not just a motorcycle bill; this legislation would apply to all persons on a roadway that cause the death of another through reckless and negligent driving.

ABATE has been protecting the rights of motorcyclists in Maryland since 1974. We have been instrumental in getting numerous pieces of legislation enacted that affect all Maryland motorcyclists. This "Must Appear" bill would be one more tool in the toolbox that would help motorcyclists and any other motorist on the roadways in Maryland.

I feel that this bill would give the family and friends of a victim of a reckless or negligent driver a bit of closure to know that the person that caused the accident would at least have to appear in court.

I am hereby indicating my support for SB 0025 - Reckless and Negligent Driving Death of Another - Must-Appear Violation and urge the committee to vote favorably.

Sincerely,

**MID-SHORE CHAPTER
ABATE OF MARYLAND, INC.**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kenneth B. Eaton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" being the most prominent.

Kenneth B. Eaton, Director

Email: 89lowrider@gmail.com

Tel: 410-924-3374

2022 SB025 MUST APPEAR JULIE STUREK.pdf

Uploaded by: Kennneth Sawyer

Position: FAV

10 January, 2022

Julie Z. Sturek

7032 Flax Street, Springfield, VA 22152 703-371-9331 fjsturek@verizon.net

Re: Vote for/ in favor of passing: 2022 – HB7 and SB25, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Sherry's and Christopher's Law - Death of Another – Must Appear Violation –

Dear Members of the Judiciary Senate Committee,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of passing **HB7/SB25**, Reckless and Negligent Driving- Sherry's and Christopher's Law - Death of Another – Must Appear Violation.

On 5 July, 2019 in Conowingo, MD, my brother, Thomas D. Zdon, was involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of his wife, Sherry Zdon, and the loss of his left arm (above the elbow) and left leg (above the knee). He was hit dead on by an oncoming vehicle while out for a drive in the late afternoon near the Conowingo Dam. My brother and his wife were flown to separate hospitals where his wife later died. My brother underwent numerous surgeries and amputations. Two passengers riding another single motorcycle were critically injured, and spent many days in hospitals as well.

We don't have many details of the accident. My brother has no memory of that day. It was difficult to receive a copy of the initial police report. The report has only basic information. We finally obtained the additional detailed crash reconstruction report, which was vague as well. We have many questions and still no answers. We have not met or spoken to the party at fault. My brother retained a lawyer and has spoken to the insurance claims representatives, but we would like to know more. It has been over 2 ½ years since the accident, and we still have not heard from the Driver of the car that hit them. We have not even received a sympathy card or note of condolences in the mail.

Passing this bill would give my family the opportunity to meet the party at fault. It would allow the guilty party to be put into a court of law to receive some sort of judgement. I'd like to meet them to ask questions and I'd like them to meet my brother and see how our lives have drastically changed since that fatal day. Meeting them would possibly bring my family and brother some sort of closure. My family and I are not vengeful people. It pains us to think that someone, whom was responsible for killing someone, albeit an accident, might never have to go to court or be sentenced to at least a fine or traffic ticket. Meeting and facing the person whom they hurt and receiving judgement seems only sensible, just and fair.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote in favor of passing HB7/SB25.

Sincerely,

Julie Zdon Sturek

Abate Member

2022 SB025 must appear KVS.pdf

Uploaded by: Kennneth Sawyer

Position: FAV



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 18, 2022

RE: **SB025 – Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another
– Must-Appear Violation (Sherry’s and Christopher’s Law)**

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

As the voice of motorcyclists throughout the state, Abate of Maryland is in favor of SB025. We have supported this bill and provided testimony for many years.

The proposed bill seeks to modify the current law to include that a person charged with reckless and negligent driving that contributes to an accident that results in the death of another person must appear in Court and may not prepay the fine.

We believe that requiring reckless motor vehicle operators who cause the death of another person to appear in court would hold persons accountable for their actions. This could be helpful in the healing process for the family members who are grieving the tragic loss of their loved one.

A mandatory court appearance is a very small price to pay for a person who causes the death of another through their reckless and negligent conduct. The inconvenience (and potential lost income) of missing employment to attend court, the probable expense of hiring a lawyer, and the discomfort of having to defend or answer for their actions in a court of law would likely deter many motorists who have yet to understand that this kind of driving presents a danger to all that travel the roads.

This bill has been presented to the committee several times. Unfortunately, as the years pass and despite safety campaigns to address dangerous driving, our roads are not becoming safer. In an open letter to drivers last year the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration reported that even though fewer Americans drove due to the pandemic, those who did took more risks and had more fatal crashes. Our members, who traveled over a combined 250,000 miles last year, have observed first-hand the increase in more aggressive and dangerous driving.

There has been very moving testimony presented over the years from many family members of people who were killed because of the way another person operated their motor vehicle. These family members favor this bill so strongly that, each year, they steel themselves for the pain that they are forced to relive as they recount the tragic loss of their loved one. Abate of Maryland feels very strongly that this bill should be approved and implemented as soon as possible so that our roadways are safer for everyone.

We request a favorable report of SB025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth V. Sawyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "S".

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

2022 SB25 must appear Bob testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kennneth Sawyer

Position: FAV



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: Robert Spanburgh, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Abate of Maryland, Inc.

DATE: January 18, 2021

RE: **SB025 – Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another
– Must-Appeal Violation (Sherry's and Christopher's Law)**

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert G. Spanburgh Jr. I am the Chairman of the Board for ABATE of Maryland. We are the State's largest Motorcycle Rights Organization.

Since our inception in 1974 our goal has been to lobby for laws, policies and practices that will continue to promote and enhance the enjoyment and safety of motorcycling in Maryland.

We feel that passage of SB 025 has the ability to make our roads and highways safer for all motorists, motorcyclists included.

It is our belief that it is a fundamental right of the families of individuals killed or maimed in motor vehicle accidents to be able to attend court proceedings and actually see the party or parties involved in such accidents.

With this in mind, we respectfully request a favorable report and committee vote on SB 025. Thank You.

SB0025 Reckless Negligent Driving - Death - Must

Uploaded by: Ragina Ali

Position: FAV



**AAA Mid-Atlantic's Testimony In Support Of SB 0025 - Reckless And Negligent Driving –
Death Of Another – Must-Appear Violation
(Sherry's and Christopher's Law)**

Sponsor: Senator Cassilly

- AAA Mid-Atlantic **supports SB 0025**, which provides “that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that contributes to an accident [crash] resulting in the death of another person must appear in court and may not prepay the fine.”
- Over the years, we have seen countless cases where drivers involved in fatal crashes in Maryland received a slap on the wrist and a fine for causing a crash that killed another.
- One such crash involved a young driver who crossed the yellow line on a Maryland road in Northern Baltimore County crashing into another vehicle, killing the driver, 61-year old Chuck Stoecker, in November of 2007.
- The reckless driver did not have to appear in court for his violation; he was permitted to mail in the payment for his citation.
- We saw this again in a high-profile crash in August 2008 that involved a driver who fell asleep while crossing the Bay Bridge, causing a fatal crash that sent a tractor trailer plunging into the water and claiming the life of the truck driver, John R. Short, Sr.
- The driver who was charged with causing the crash, Candy Lynn Baldwin, also did not have to appear in court for her violations. Ms. Baldwin merely paid \$470 in fines to settle the tickets according to the Queen Anne's State's Attorney, as stated in the *Annapolis Capital* newspaper.
- And we saw this for a third time a few months later in October 2008 when teenager Ryan Didone, for whom this bill is named, was killed riding in a vehicle that veered off the road and crashed. The driver of the vehicle was charged with traffic citations totaling \$710 in fines and never appeared in court.
- There was no opportunity for the families of Chuck Stoecker, John Short, and Ryan Didone to have their day in court to express their grievances face-to-face with the driver and before a judge.
- Deadly crashes should not be treated the same as non-life threatening crashes. It should be mandatory for drivers involved in fatal crashes to appear in court and not have the convenience of paying a citation by mail for the loss of a life.
- Victims' families should be afforded the opportunity to have their day in court, too, for a tragedy that will affect them for the rest of their lives.
- AAA Mid-Atlantic supports **SB 0025** and respectfully urges the Committee to render a favorable report.

Contacts:

*Ragina C. Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic
Public and Government Affairs
443.465.5020*

*Sherrie Sims, G.S. Proctor & Assoc.
Senior State Associate
410.280.5088*

SB 25 - MoCo_Morningstar_FAV (GA 22).pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Morningstar

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 25

DATE: January 18, 2022

SPONSOR: Senator Cassilly

ASSIGNED TO: Judicial Proceedings

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT (Montgomery County Department of Police)

Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry's and Christopher's Law)

Senate Bill 25 seeks to strengthen Maryland's vehicle laws surrounding reckless and negligent driving that results in the death of another person. Montgomery County Department of Police supports this legislation to promote traffic safety and acknowledge the suffering of the family members of those killed in traffic collisions.

Reckless driving is a crime in Maryland that is classified as a misdemeanor – currently subject to six points and a "scheduled" fine of \$500. Negligent driving is also classified as a misdemeanor and subject to points, but violators receive a lesser "scheduled" fine of \$180 if contributing to an accident. Reckless driving involves "wanton or willful disregard" for safety of persons or property whereas negligent driving involves driving in a "careless and imprudent manner" that endangers life or property.

The legislation proposes that reckless and negligent driving contributing to the death of a person should be penalized more strongly than the same acts that merely damage property. Drivers whose reckless or negligent actions have contributed to the death of another person will no longer have the option of prepaying a scheduled fine and will instead be required to appear in court to account for their actions. Attending a court appearance is often an important part of the healing process for deceased victims' family members, who frequently express grief and frustration to members of Montgomery County Department of Police's Collision Reconstruction Unit that drivers can simply pay a fine after causing the death of their loved one.

Montgomery County Department of Police supports SB 25 and urges the Committee to adopt a favorable report.

SB 25 Written Testimony Scott Shellenberger.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Shellenberger

Position: FAV

Bill Number: SB 25

**Scott D. Shellenberger, State's Attorney for Baltimore County
Support**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SCOTT D. SHELLENBERGER,
STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY,
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 25
RECKLESS AND NEGLIGENT DRIVING – DEATH OF ANOTHER – MUST APPEAR
(SHERRY'S AND RYAN'S LAW)

I write in support of Senate Bill 25 that makes a traffic charge of negligent driving which results in the death of another a must appear offense.

It is a simple fact that all State's Attorney's know - traffic fatalities are often the most difficult cases to explain to family and friends about the limits of the criminal justice system. The automobile manslaughter case requirement of gross negligence sometimes does not fit certain traffic offenses even when it results in a death. Many times the most that can be charged is reckless or negligent driving.

Allowing a Defendant charged with this offense to pay from home imposes more pain on a victim's family. Making these offenses a "must appear" will give a surviving family a moment to feel some accountability and maybe even an apology.

Senate Bill 25 is not raising the penalty, it is not changing the standard by which we have charged for decades, it is merely trying to give a grieving family a day in court.

I urge a favorable report.

SB25_Abate_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

Position: FAV

10 January, 2022

Julie Z. Sturek

7032 Flax Street, Springfield, VA 22152 703-371-9331 fjsturek@verizon.net

Re: Vote for/ in favor of passing: 2022 – HB007, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Sherry's and Christopher's Law - Death of Another – Must Appear Violation –

Dear Members of the Judiciary Senate Committee,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of passing **HB007**, Reckless and Negligent Driving- Sherry's and Christopher's Law - Death of Another – Must Appear Violation.

On 5 July, 2019 in Conowingo, MD, my brother, Thomas D. Zdon, was involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of his wife, Sherry Zdon, and the loss of his left arm (above the elbow) and left leg (above the knee). He was hit dead on by an oncoming vehicle while out for a drive in the late afternoon near the Conowingo Dam. My brother and his wife were flown to separate hospitals where his wife later died. My brother underwent numerous surgeries and amputations. Two passengers riding another single motorcycle were critically injured, and spent many days in hospitals as well.

We don't have many details of the accident. My brother has no memory of that day. It was difficult to receive a copy of the initial police report. The report has only basic information. We finally obtained the additional detailed crash reconstruction report, which was vague as well. We have many questions and still no answers. We have not met or spoken to the party at fault. My brother retained a lawyer and has spoken to the insurance claims representatives, but we would like to know more. It has been over 2 ½ years since the accident, and we still have not heard from the Driver of the car that hit them. We have not even received a sympathy card or note of condolences in the mail.

Passing this bill would give my family the opportunity to meet the party at fault. It would allow the guilty party to be put into a court of law to receive some sort of judgement. I'd like to meet them to ask questions and I'd like them to meet my brother and see how our lives have drastically changed since that fatal day. Meeting them would possibly bring my family and brother some sort of closure. My family and I are not vengeful people. It pains us to think that someone, whom was responsible for killing someone, albeit an accident, might never have to go to court or be sentenced to at least a fine or traffic ticket. Meeting and facing the person whom they hurt seems only sensible, just and fair.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote in favor of passing HB 668.

Sincerely,

Julie Zdon Sturek

Member: Abate of Maryland, Inc

SB25_Butcher_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

Position: FAV

SB25/HB7 – Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry's and Christian's Law)

Stephanie Butcher Testimony
Diamondarrowss23@gmail.com

•STAND TALL FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE•

In honor of Travis "Christian" Butcher

Christian just celebrated his 19th birthday in October of 2016. He was a motorcycle and car enthusiast, and worked on all of his own vehicles. At the time he rode a Suzuki TL 1000. It wasn't his dream bike, but it worked. He got a temporary job at Kohl's warehouse, but he dreamed of being a professional motorcycle racer, or a K-9 Police officer. Anything he thought of he made a reality. On Thanksgiving Eve, Christian had picked up an extra shift at the warehouse. He was headed to work traveling within the speed limit on Route 7 (PHILADELPHIA RD.) in Abingdon, MD. A woman was attempting to make a left turn from Route 136 (HARKINS RD.) after a stop sign. My brother, on his motorcycle, was struck by her vehicle and thrown from his bike. He had the right of way, and she did not yield to him. My brother was unconscious upon EMS arrival, and was flown to Shock Trauma in Baltimore. He suffered from a broken femur, a ruptured spleen, bruising on the brain, and many other wounds. He underwent emergency surgery when he arrived. Devastatingly, after 3 days in the hospital, Christian passed away. That is the hardest sentence for to type, let alone speak. My brother was my best friend, an amazing uncle, a great son, a caring grandson, fun cousin, he was EVERYTHING. He was such a genuine and pure soul. His laughter lit up the room. His jokes made anyone smile. If you were around him you felt his positive energy and good vibes. People make mistakes, and I believe they should suffer the consequences for those mistakes. Currently, the woman who killed Christian has a lengthy rap sheet criminal, civil, and multiple tragic charges. Prior to the accident, and after. Why hasn't her license been revoked? Why did she only have to pay \$850 dollars for taking a life? I don't think that fits the scenario. How can you put a dollar amount on someone's life? My brother's life? It's not fair, and something has to be done to better the laws that are currently in place. Other families in the future won't have to feel the way my family does. Nothing will bring our loved ones back, but we will be able to have some closure, knowing the person who so carelessly took a life has to suffer the consequences.

Ride in Paradise Christian,
We love and Miss you always.

SB25_Cassilly_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

Position: FAV

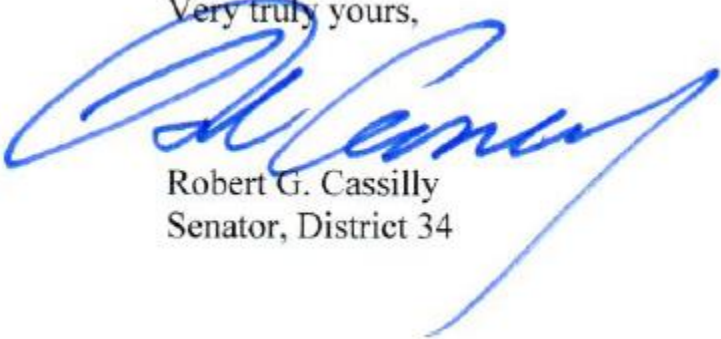
January 18, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 25 – Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry's and Christian's Law)

Dear Committee Members:

I request your support for SB 25. The purpose of this bill is to require that a person must appear in court on charges of reckless and negligent driving when the conduct giving rise to the violation contributes to a fatal accident. This ensures that the charges are reviewed by a judge in a public courtroom for adequacy and fairness. It also promotes a sense of justice and closure for survivors as a driver whose actions caused someone to lose their life should not be able to simply pay a fine and move on with their own life without facing the victim's survivors.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Cassilly", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert G. Cassilly
Senator, District 34

SB25_Madeline Zdon_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

Position: FAV

11 January 2022

Re: Vote for SB25/ HB7 year 2022, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must Appear Violation:

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of SB25/HB7 year 2022, Reckless and Negligent Driving-Death of Another – Must Appear Violation. (Sherry and Ryan and Christopher's Law)

On 5 July, 2019 in Conowingo, MD my son, Thomas D. Zdon, and his wife, Sherry A Zdon, were involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of my daughter in law Sherry , and the loss of my son's left arm above the elbow and left leg above the knee. They were hit dead on by an oncoming vehicle while out for a drive in the late afternoon on Rt 1 near the Conowingo Dam. They were flown to separate hospitals. Sherry later died at Christiana Hospital in Delaware, and my son underwent numerous surgeries and amputations at Shock Trauma in Baltimore, MD. Two passengers riding another single motorcycle tandem were critically injured as well and flown to Christiana and Johns Hopkins Hospitals.

Our family has very little details about the accident. We have the generalities, like date, time, the party's involved, etc...but no other information. It is heartbreaking. My families' lives have changed forever as we grieve the loss of Sherry, and rearrange our lives to take care of my now crippled/disabled son. Our unanswered questions consume us. I wish to meet these people who caused this accident.

I understand accidents happen and wish no vengeance on the people that hit him. But, I cave details and would like to meet the party at fault to ask questions about the day. I'd like for them to see my son and meet my family and see how this single horrific incident has drastically changed our lives. Meeting them would possibly bring me some sort of closure and peace. I am curious as well to see what type of ticket or fine they should receive for causing the accident. Why should the party at fault not have to appear in person for a sentence or fine? This makes no sense to me. Even accidentally killing someone should warrant an appearance in court and provide an opportunity for the injured party to "see" them.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote for SB25/HB7 year 2022.

Sincerely,

Madeline L. Zdon

126 Hopewell Road, Churchville, Maryland, 21018 410-734-4241 NO email

SB25_Tom Zdon_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly

Position: FAV

11 January 2022

Thomas D. Zdon

629 Aldino Stepney Rd, Aberdeen, MD 21001 410-459-5290 tomsbowties@gmail.com

Re: Vote in Favor of/for SB25/HB7 year 2022, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must Appear Violation: “Sherry’s and Christopher’s Bill” (formerly Sherry’s and Ryan’s Bill)

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of SB25, HB7 year 2022, Reckless and Negligent Driving-Death of Another – Must Appear Violation.

On 5 July, 2019 in Conowingo, MD I was involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of my wife Sherry Zdon, and the loss of my left arm above the elbow and left leg above the knee. We were hit dead on by an oncoming vehicle while out for a drive in the late afternoon on Rt 1 near the Conowingo Dam. We were both flown to separate hospitals where my wife later died, and I underwent numerous surgeries and amputations to keep me alive. Two passengers riding another single motorcycle were critically injured as well.

I have no memory of the accident. I was medevacked to Shock Trauma in Baltimore, MD. It’s been difficult to receive copies of the police reports that could provide me with some details of the happenings that occurred. I have many questions and still no answers. I have not met or spoken to the party at fault. I have a lawyer and have spoken to the insurance claims representatives but would like to know more.

I understand accidents happen and wish no vengeance on the people that hit me. I would like an apology or statement of sympathy and condolence, albeit just a card. I’d like to meet them to ask questions and I’d like them to meet me and see how my life has drastically changed since that fatal day. Meeting them would possibly bring me some sort of closure and peace. I am curious as well to see what type of ticket or fine they should receive for causing the accident. It does not seem just or fair that the party at fault could potentially just receive a driving ticket in the mail for causing an accident that killed my wife and maimed me for the rest of my life. Their actions warrant more than just a speeding ticket received and paid through the mail.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote for SB25/HB7 year 2022.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Zdon

410-459-5290 tomsbowties@gmail.com

support letter to senators sb0025 adobe converted.

Uploaded by: Shelli McLane

Position: FAV

1/13/2022

Dear Senators:

My name is Shelli McLane. I am writing you to ask you all to support and pass the following bill:

SB0025 (HB0007)

Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appeal Violation (Sherry's and Christopher's Law

I have lost numerous friends to vehicle vs motorcycle accidents and personally know people who have been maimed while riding their motorcycles through the negligence of others and those who killed and maimed the riders either A) have never been caught due to the incidents being hit and run or B) were not charged either at the scene of the accident or incident or within the current 3 year limit time for the police to charge them with the crimes they committed in killing or maiming the operators and or passengers of the motorcycles.

This needs to change and I respectfully request all on the committee and in the Senate to support this very important legislation which would hopefully bring closure to families of the motorcycle victims of vehicular homicide.

Respectfully;

Shelli McLane

30+ year Motorcycle Operator

Carroll County Abate of Md Chapter Director

Licensed Motorcycle operator and Registered Voter

SB25_MDSierraClub_fwa - 18Jan2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FWA



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB25 - “Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation (Sherry’s and Christopher’s Law)”

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Hearing Date: January 18, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB 25, which would provide that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that contributes to an accident resulting in the death of another person must appear in court and cannot prepay the fine.

Transportation is now the largest 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, taking transit, riding bikes, and walking more. However, it is quite difficult to make this happen near roads where people sometimes drive in a reckless or negligent manner.

We live in a car-centric culture where transportation planning, road infrastructure and vehicle laws are largely focused on enabling vehicles to get to their destination as swiftly as possible. Unfortunately, this has resulted in some drivers feeling they have priority on the road, and there are high rates of injury and death for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as vehicle drivers and passengers. According to the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office, there were 542 traffic fatalities in our state last year. Speeding accounts for more than 9,800 crashes and 4,500 injuries each year in Maryland.

In updating the section of the law where a death has been caused, we encourage this committee to consider conforming the maximum fine provided in the existing law (\$1,000) with the allowable fine in section 21-901.3 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code (\$2,000).

This bill could help bring about needed change. The tougher approach specified in the bill, which would be further strengthened by the amendment we suggest, would force individuals to take responsibility in court for their reckless or negligent driving, where they also may have to face people who lost a loved one in an accident caused by their driving. This should help discourage reckless and negligent driving, and make our roads safer for everyone.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill as amended.

Brian Ditzler
Transportation Committee Chair
Brian.Ditzler@MDSierra.org

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 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.