

Favorable Report for HB0557, February 23, 2022

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Arlene Rosenbusch from District 19. Five years ago I lost my sister, Lynne Rosenbusch and her husband John Fauerby to a drunk driver. They lived in Maryland's District 15. They were avid bicyclists for many years, well known in the bicycling community. They advocated for safe bicycling conditions for many years and themselves were very careful, law abiding cyclists.

On the afternoon of October 31, 2015 in Calvert County near Chesapeake Beach, a 62 year old woman drove while intoxicated, came up from behind them while they were riding their tandem bicycle and plowed them down. There were no other cars around, the road conditions were fine, and the weather was sunny. There was no excuse. She had a blood alcohol level of .12, equivalent to 10 shots of liquor.

She had no previous drunk driving convictions. I was not allowed to know if she ever had a PBJ but I do know that the year before she had a second degree assault and alcohol beverage intoxication disorderly conduct case, not involving a car.

She served only 2 years in prison of a 10 year sentence and is out driving again with an interlock device for the time being.

I feel strongly that first time drunk driving offenders should be mandated to have an interlock device installed on their car. I do not see this as a punishment. I see this as a way to protect the public and to also protect the offender.

The drunk driver in this case killed two people before she was pulled over for drunk driving. You don't know when a drunk driver will kill or injure. Chances are the person has been driving drunk before they were caught. Don't wait until it's too late.

It's a small price to pay for the offender. I'm sure they would rather have the ignition interlock device than to have to live with the fact that they killed or injured someone. My family, friends and I have to live with this sad fact. Our hearts are broken for these two wonderful people.

I ask for a favorable report for HB0557.

Arlene Rosenbusch

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