



Robin M. Stimson
Manager of Victim Services
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
Testimony in Support of HB 557
House Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 23, 2022

- On behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman and the members of the Committee for allowing me to testify in support of HB 557. My name is Robin Stimson and I am the Manager of Victim Services for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD would also like to express our appreciation to Chairwoman Atterbeary for once again authoring and leading on this vital legislation. It is truly an honor to be here with you this afternoon.
- MADD knows that the first time someone is arrested for drunk driving, it is likely not their first time they drove while impaired. Research from the CDC indicates that first-time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. In 2016, the Drunk Driving Reduction Act, also known as 'Noah's Law,' made Maryland one of 34 states (plus the District of Columbia) to have in-place an all-offender ignition interlock law. However, plea agreements, or probation before judgments (PBJ), have allowed offenders to avoid using this lifesaving device. A PBJ provides drunk drivers a second chance; an important opportunity at redemption. However, PBJs alone do not always change behavior and reduce impaired driving. MADD firmly believes that PBJ's allows too many drunk drivers to avoid an interlock and, as a result, they avoid learning how to drive sober.
- Studies show that the Ignition Interlock Device is more effective than license suspension alone. In addition, research indicates that 50% to 75% of convicted drunk drivers, continue to drive on a suspended license.
- Ignition Interlock Devices help reduce repeat offenses by 67% when installed, and another 39% after the device has been removed (when compared to offenders who never installed an interlock). Maryland already sets mandatory conditions for PBJs, but fails to include the use of an interlock for every participant. At least eight states require interlocks for PBJs. The passage of HB 557 would continue to solidify Maryland as a leader in this arena.
- The Ignition Interlock Device is a vital lifesaving tool that ensures offenders remain a functional, contributing member of society. It offers minimal disruption to the driver, and allows for them to continue to provide for their families and maintain busy schedules. As a result, the Ignition Interlock Device not only presents a benefit to the offender, but it is important to the overall health and safety for the community-at-large.



- Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, please pass this legislation to give your constituents and victims a future of No More Victims © and drunk drivers a true second chance.
- Thank you.