



The Nation's Premier Youth Health & Safety Organization

Testimony of Alan Morales

Member, SADD National Student Leadership Council

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 528 – March 7, 2023

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Alan Morales. I am a Sophomore at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland. On behalf of Students Against Destructive Decisions and the 23,856 members of SADD across the state of Maryland I rise to urge swift passage of Senate Bill 528.

My fellow students and members wish me to convey their desire to see this measure advance as a sensible and necessary countermeasure to curb – impaired driving. For over 40 years, our organization has worked with a broad coalition of stakeholders to end impaired driving. Mr. Chairman, this Committee has heard and will hear from individuals whom this senseless and preventable crime has impacted, a crime of robbing our communities, our families, and our society of incredible individuals taken from us at the hands of an impaired driver.

You've heard from prosecutors, law enforcement, and legal experts who have foretold why Maryland will benefit from this bill. I add another powerful voice to that chorus, the voices of the future – we, as students of the great state of Maryland. As the **future leaders of Maryland**, **we want** Senate Bill 528 **to become law** to be assured of the bright future we deserve—protecting ourselves, our friends, and our communities.

This measure makes critical enhancements to the existing law. Ignition interlocks work. Period. When a young person makes the deadly choice to drive impaired, they do so from a place of need.

At SADD, we empower teens to make positive choices, one positive decision at a time. We understand the value of personal choice, but when one chooses to put others in harm's way, there is a need to rise to protect the public good. I'm tired of parents losing their teens to something completely preventable. I'm sickened by the number of lives lost to impairment. I know you join me in grieving with each mother, father, brother, sister, teacher, and community member who wakes up with that pain. Senate Bill 528 has the power to prevent that pain and continue to make our roadways safer for us all.

I urge you to **vote yes** in advancing this measure. I thank you for your time and your consideration. Thank you.