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WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM

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March 9, 2023

Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

Re.: Opposition to "Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Convictions," Senate Bill 505, Senator Muse (D-Prince George's County)

"Alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes were 4 times more likely to have prior DWI convictions than were drivers with no alcohol (8% and 2%, respectively)."

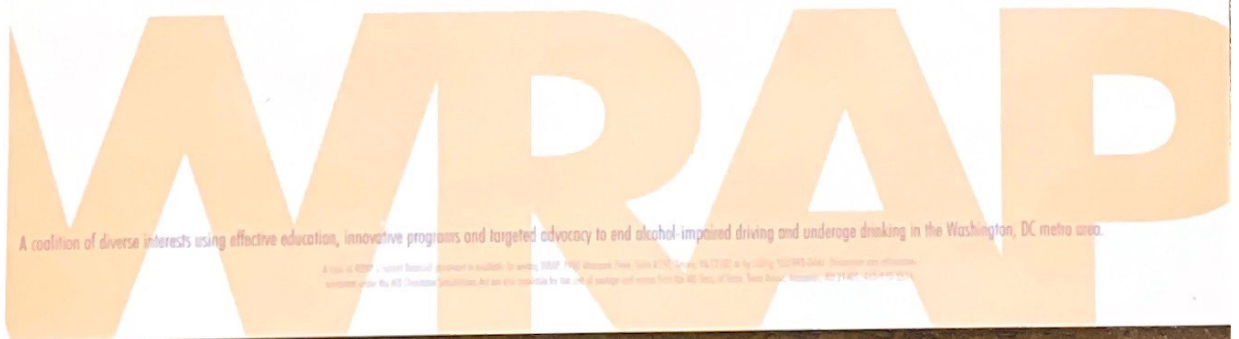
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA),
"Alcohol-Impaired Driving" Traffic Safety Facts, April 2022

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Maryland nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program's (WRAP) Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and the more than six-million Maryland residents we serve in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking (including having served as project director of both Maryland's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign and "Maryland Remembers" ceremony), I wanted to formally communicate to you **WRAP's opposition to Senate Bill 505, "Criminal Procedure – Expungement – Convictions"** (Senator C. Anthony Muse, D-Prince George's County).

Succinctly, Senate Bill 505 seeks to allow persons convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol or driving while impaired by drugs or controlled dangerous substances (Maryland Transportation Section 21-902 [a][b][c] & [d]) to file a petition for the expungement (from court or police records) of said offense.

(over)



A coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area.

WRAP's concern here is that repeat drunk drivers are overrepresented in fatal traffic crashes where alcohol was a factor. Such repeat offenders are categorized as "high risk" drunk drivers by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with federal data showing that drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes are "four-times more likely to have prior DWI convictions than were drivers with no alcohol" in their systems.

Due to this bill's likely impact on the accurate adjudication of impaired driving offenders including subjecting the same to the appropriate sanctions based upon numerous outcomes including an accurate number of previous convictions for said same offense, WRAP opposes Senate Bill 505 and urges your consideration of unfavorably reporting said legislation.

□□□□

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. I may be directly reached with any questions at either 703-893-0461 or at kurt@wrap.org.

Cordially,



Kurt Gregory Erickson
President