

SENATOR JEFF WALDSTREICHER  
*Legislative District 18*  
Montgomery County

—  
*Vice Chair*  
Judicial Proceedings Committee

—  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



*Annapolis Office*  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3137 · 410-841-3137  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3137  
Jeff.Waldstreicher@senate.state.md.us

*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Jeff Waldstreicher  
**Senate Bill 16 – Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023**

January 31, 2023

Chairman Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Every year, hundreds of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers tragically lose their lives here in Maryland. Despite the modest decrease in roadway fatalities in recent years, Maryland still sees an unacceptable number of crashes—519 in 2021—resulting in 557 fatalities, including 129 pedestrians and six bicyclists.<sup>1</sup>

These deaths were 100% preventable. As you know, during the 2019 legislative session, the General Assembly passed legislation committing to the Vision Zero goal of zero vehicle-related deaths or serious injuries on our roadways. Senate Bill 16, Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2023, would help make that goal a reality.

Simply put, SB 16 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to place emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle safety in the development and construction of any roadway project. It would also require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide reports to the General Assembly detailing the agency's efforts to make our roadways safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

No Marylander should have to risk their lives by choosing to walk or bike on our roadways. This timely legislation would ensure that they won't have to. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 16.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Waldstreicher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Department of Transportation. (2022, April 18). *557 Fatalities on Maryland Highways in 2021* [Press Release] <https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/newsroomdetails.aspx?newsId=610>