



## The Nation's Premier Youth Health & Safety Organization

### Letter in Favor of HB451

Chairman Clippinger  
Taylor House Office Building  
Room 101  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 6, 2023

Dear Chairman Clippinger:

On behalf of the 23,856 students Against Destructive Decisions members across the state of Maryland, I write to **convey our support for HB 451 and urge the swift passage of this life-saving measure.**

For over 40 years, our organization has worked with a broad coalition of stakeholders to end impaired driving. We started this journey 40 years ago as Students Against Driving Drunk with a singular focus on this topic. We now serve as the nation's premier youth health and safety organization. Mr. Chairman, this Committee 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. We echo the sentiment that this change elevates the standing of this state, removing a barrier that ties the hands of judges uniquely suited to implement strategies that curb impaired driving. As the **future leaders of Maryland, we want HB 451 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. This cry for help reveals an underlying intervention, a need for countermeasures to provide oversight and support. Allowing all drivers access to interlock technology will provide our judicial partners with another resource in their toolbox to eliminate impaired driving. Beyond that, it just makes sense.

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. HB 451 can prevent that pain and modernize this state's laws.

Our members, **the students of Maryland, call on you today to vote yes** in advancing This measure. I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Rick Birt  
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