



SafeRoadsMD

SB 421
“Drunk Driving Offenses –
Ignition Interlock System Program”
PLEASE SUPPORT

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 421

February 12, 2024

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*
JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org (202) 468-7682
SafeRoadsMD.org

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Waldstreicher:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of SB 421, the “Drunk Driving Offenses – Ignition Interlock System Program” bill.**

We respectfully request that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to help stem the continuing lethal tide of DUI offenses in Maryland.

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and taking action to increase safety on our roads.

111 impairment-related deaths in 2023 is 111 too many among the 600 fatalities on Maryland roads. (ZeroDeathsMD).

Authoritative research provides incontrovertible evidence that ignition interlock systems work, finding repeatedly *that drivers who have interlocks installed are up to 75 percent less likely to have a repeat drunk-driving offense than drunk drivers who do not have an interlock device installed.**

Allowing a person convicted of driving while impaired to plead probation before judgment and avoid a requirement to participate in an ignition interlock system program is mind-boggling. What is the point of aiming to reduce if not eliminate road deaths through programs such as “ZeroDeathsMD” if lawmakers fail to restrict DUI via a required ignition interlock program?

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

Mr. Smith and Mr. Waldstreicher, we commend you as well as Mr. Folden, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Muse and Mr. West for sponsoring SB 421. We're satisfied that you believe there is no good reason not to close this loophole in Noah's Law.

Approving SB 421 will begin to close the legal loophole, and help ensure that impaired drivers cannot operate their vehicles, and harm others on or near our roads.

Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

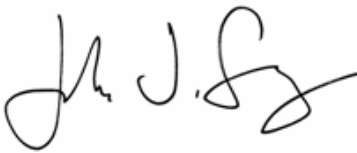
As we've shared with the Judicial Proceedings Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation:

Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with JPR's leadership, could boldly take a preeminent role during this 2024 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that road safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing's left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority**?

You Can Do It!

We thank you both and the Judicial Proceedings Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 421.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng
Chair

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Rich Leotta, Officer Noah Leotta Foundation
Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic
SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors
Maryland Road Safety Advocates and Safety Partners of SmartStart

* See Elder, R. W., Voas, R., Beirness, D., Shults, R. A., Sleet, D. A., Nichols, J. L., & Compton, R. (2011). Effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes: A community guide systematic review. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 40(3), 362-376. Elvik, R. (2013). Risk of road accident associated with the use of drugs: A systematic review and meta-analysis of evidence from epidemiological studies. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 60, 254-267 and Government Accountability Office. (2014, June). *Traffic Safety: Alcohol ignition interlocks are effective while installed; less is known about how to increase installation rates* (Report No. GAO-14-559).