



SafeRoadsMD

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 940

“Allowing Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving”

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 940**

March 5, 2024

TO:

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

FROM:

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

Dear Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of SB 940 “Allowing Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving.”**

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

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

605 people woke up in 2023 fully expecting to see the next morning. But they did not, instead falling victim too often to irresponsible, reckless danger on Maryland roads.

Of the 605 motor vehicle-related deaths last year, speed-related deaths accounted for 161, 69 deaths tied directly to aggressive driving and 113 with impairment.

The motor vehicle is indeed a killing machine. Only a responsible vehicle owner and operator can prevent deaths and injuries to others and themselves as they drive along Maryland roads. Handing over one’s car keys to another person with little to no regard for risk to roadway safety equates to handing that same person a loaded gun. No right-minded person would make that decision.

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

SafeRoadsMD recognizes the need to boost the sanctions to vehicle owners who allow use of their automobiles by drivers found guilty of reckless, negligent and aggressive driving.

Quite frankly, Maryland leaders need not have waited for the tragic, dramatic criminal trauma caused to Sgt. Patrick Kepp on October 18, 2023 on I-270; or, for the six construction workers killed March 22, 2023 on I-695, to act strongly to deter reckless, negligent and aggressing driving.

Maryland road fatalities had already been increasing each of the past several years, due to increased speeding, aggressive driving and other contributors.

Finally, what good even are stronger laws if the ranks of law enforcement personnel continue to decline? Maryland State and local governments must do more to attract, train and retain the best law enforcement personnel to ensure public safety.

Approving SB 940 will help ensure that motor vehicle owners act responsibly and consider carefully before permitting any third party to drive their vehicle.

Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

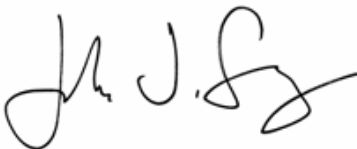
As we continue to share with Maryland leadership regarding road safety legislation:

Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with your 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 members for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 940.

Sincerely,



John J. Seng
Chair

cc: Majority Leader Senator Nancy King
SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors
Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Ragina Ali, AAA Mid-Atlantic