



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB0730– Motor Vehicles-Motorcycles- Passenger  
Restrictions  
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
On February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024**

**Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:**

**I am writing to offer my support for SB730, a crucial piece of legislation that seeks to enhance the safety of motorcyclists and their passengers across our state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for road safety, I firmly believe that this bill represents a significant step forward in protecting the lives and well-being of all individuals who choose to travel by motorcycle.**

**SB730, which mandates that rear passengers on motorcycles must be able to firmly position their feet on the footrests, with exceptions granted only for those with permanent physical disabilities, addresses a critical safety concern that has been overlooked for far too long. Ensuring that passengers have secure footing on the footrests is essential for maintaining balance, stability, and control of the motorcycle, particularly during sudden stops, turns, or unexpected maneuvers.**

**By implementing this requirement, we are not only prioritizing the safety of passengers but also promoting responsible riding practices among motorcyclists. Clear guidelines regarding passenger positioning will help prevent accidents caused by passengers losing**

**their balance or being unable to properly brace themselves in hazardous situations.**

**Furthermore, the provision of an exception for individuals with permanent physical disabilities demonstrates compassion and understanding for those who may face unique challenges in meeting the standard requirements. This provision ensures that individuals with disabilities can still enjoy the freedom and exhilaration of motorcycle travel while maintaining their safety and the safety of others on the road.**

**SB730 aligns with our shared commitment to improving road safety and reducing the risk of motorcycle accidents and injuries in Maryland.**

**I urge all members of the Maryland General Assembly to support SB730 and prioritize the safety and well-being of motorcyclists and their passengers. Together, we can make Maryland roads safer for everyone.**

**I urge this committee to give a favorable report on SB0730. Thank you for your time.**

**Respectfully,**

**Jill P. Carter**