



**Bryna Clark-Braverman**  
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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 26**  
**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**January 24, 2024**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 26, also known as Jamari's Law, to help stop impaired driving. My name is Bryna Clark-Braverman and I am Regional Executive Director for the Maryland chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

MADD thanks Senator Bailey for authoring this proposal. For anyone who has not been impacted by a violent crash caused by an impaired driver, it may be surprising to learn that every day in the United States, 37 people are killed and more than 1,000 people are injured just by drunk driving. That does not take into account the horrific crashes caused by other drugs such as cannabis and opioids.

Since 2019, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drunk driving deaths have increased 17% resulting in 195 preventable deaths in 2021 in Maryland.

Maryland is not alone in historic increases in drunk driving deaths. Throughout the nation, drunk driving deaths are at a historic high. Lawmakers must do more. Jamari's Law, SB 26, is a great first step.

MADD strongly supports Jamari's Law because it allows for increased sentences in impaired driving crashes that result in a death of a victim. MADD wants to be clear, Jamari's Law does not create any mandatory minimums of any kind. However, Jamari's Law gives the courts discretion to ensure longer sentences for impaired drivers who take the life of an innocent victim in Maryland. This is important for justice. This is important to victim survivors in seeking closure.

Jamari's Law, SB 26, is a victim-driven proposal that will allow for more justice. It does not create any mandatory minimums of any sort, but Jamari's Law does allow for courts to seek a more appropriate sentence when impaired drivers kill on Maryland roadways. Mr. Chairman and members of committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. We urge your support of Jamari's Law. Thank you.