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Testimony in **Support** of

HB 264 – Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law)

Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chairman Bartlett, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to show my strong support for House Bill (HB) 264. I am the State's Attorney's for Prince George's County.

The Special Prosecutions Unit (SPU) for our Office prosecutes, among other offenses, vehicular manslaughter, and associated crimes. In 2023, this Office indicted at least 25 cases involving vehicular manslaughter.

The most heart-breaking aspect of these prosecutions is the devastation that such needless deaths wreak on the families of the victims. Often compounding this devastation for these vulnerable families is the legal reality that that maximum statutory sentence that a Maryland court may impose is generally limited to 10 years of incarceration (with much less executed time being set forth under the applicable Maryland Sentencing Guideline). For families who view the conduct that caused the death of their loved one to be akin to murder, these sentencing limits often come as a slap in the face.

The provisions proposed under HB 264 would strengthen prosecutors' hands in dealing with vehicular manslaughter cases while providing a measure of solace to aggrieved families.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report, and ultimately passage, on HB 265.

Sincerely,

/s/

Aisha N. Braveboy
State's Attorney's for Prince George's County