



## HOUSE BILL 0105

### Drunk Driving Offenses – Ignition Interlock System Program

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**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

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Good afternoon and thank you members of the MD House Judiciary Committee for receiving my comments. I am Eric Reitz—an Assistant State's Attorney for Howard County. I am here on behalf of the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, Howard County State's Attorney Rich Gibson, and Rich Gibson in his capacity as the President of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association.

I ask that you issue a favorable report on HB 0105.

Individuals who have been found guilty of an alcohol-related offense have violated the sacred trust placed in those who are privileged to have a driver's license. Once that trust is broken—Maryland drivers deserve to have safeguards enacted to prevent future DUIs.

Remember every second DUI had a first DUI.

Most first-time offenders are not required to have an interlock. They are being convicted of a DWI or receiving a probation before judgment. Neither one of those outcomes mandate an interlock.

Without the interlock, the only oversight is probation. Probation agents cannot be everywhere all at once and always monitor everyone, but the interlock can. And for those who have violated that trust, more oversight is necessary.

The interlock allows early intervention and future prevention. Intervention: the car cannot start. Future prevention: violating the interlock has swift consequences both through the courts if they are still on probation and through

the MVA. Each consequence reduces the likelihood of a person driving drunk and consequently, the potential harm that drunk driver could cause to others while driving under the influence.

The current gaps in Noah's law pose a public safety issue. We owe it to everyone on our roads, drivers, and passengers, and all who use our roads to ensure that all who violate the trust is appropriately monitored. This monitoring reduces the amount of second DUI's and statistics reflect this as does my experience in court. Thank you all for receiving my testimony. I once again ask that you issue a favorable report on HB 0105. I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.