

Please support HB0744

February 11, 2025

To:

Honorable Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Honorable Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland General Assembly
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

From:

Mindy Badin, Transportation Committee Chair
Greater Olney Civic Association

Dear Chair Korman and Vice Chair Boyce:

I strongly support the passage of HB0744 “Motor Vehicles - Reckless, Negligent, and Aggressive Driving,” and respectfully request that the House Environment and Transportation Committee members vote to submit a favorable response to enact this bill to curb the epidemic of roadway violence in Maryland.

Having lost my own son Brett as he was crossing the street to meet some friends for dinner, I have been advocating for safer streets for the past five years. I believe my experiences give me a personal perspective on roadway safety. It is understandable that I had a visceral response when I learned of the events of October 18, 2023, the day of Sgt. Patrick Kepp’s crash.

I was worried and concerned about the well-being of Sgt. Kepp, the dedicated police officer who lost his legs that night. The information revealed in the ensuing hours and days was alarming, and the concern I felt quickly melted into anger. The accused was well-known amongst the police. He had a history of excessive speeding, aggressive driving, and baiting police officers into pursuits. Yet, he was still on the roads that evening, endangering the lives of everyone who was in his vicinity.

I could not understand how someone with so many citations, who was known to police, could continue to drive so recklessly. In speaking to several police officers, the accused's case is not unique. Many drivers greatly exceeding the speed limit and driving aggressively are repeat offenders.

It should not have taken the severe, life-changing injuries of a dedicated police officer to pass stricter, stronger penalties for those who drive irresponsibly and have a wanton disregard for life.

Approving HB0744 will help insure public safety by making aggressive drivers more accountable for their actions. I thank you and the Environment and Transportation Committee members, and I urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support HB0744.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin