

**Testimony on HB 234  
Vehicle Laws - Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties  
House Environment & Transportation Committee**

**Date: February 4, 2025**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition for Smarter Growth supports **HB 234 Vehicle Laws - Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties**. Our organization advocates for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

Bicycling is an important transportation mode in the Maryland suburbs of DC where we work. However, too many residents and workers that use bikes are at risk of traffic violence from careless drivers.

According to Bike Maryland: **HB 234 aims to promote greater consistency in Maryland traffic law with respect to penalties for crashes involving the serious injury or death of vulnerable road users**. The bill would update the [Vulnerable Road User law the General Assembly passed in 2021](#) to include additional penalties that were included under the [Sarah Debbink Langenkamp Memorial Act](#), which passed last session and exists also in the law protecting pedestrians in a crosswalk, adding the penalties of imprisonment not exceeding 2 months or a fine not exceeding \$2,000, or both.

We ask for a **favorable report for HB 234** by the committee. Thank you.