

February 11, 2025

SB0613: Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program

To Chair Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I support SB0613, which establishes a pilot program for a driver monitoring system in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

As a person who uses active transportation regularly, I encounter weekly, if not multiple incidents per week, where drivers are looking at their phones, texting, eating, or otherwise doing something distracting while they are supposed to be driving. It's obvious, they are looking somewhere else and failing to identify me as a pedestrian trying to cross the road at a crosswalk during school hours, adjacent to school property. I've been hit before while almost completing my crossing at this intersection only to have someone speed through without seeing me. Additionally, it has become unsafe to bicycle on the shoulders of the road due to people looking down at their large in-vehicle dashboards and swerving into the shoulder and generally not moving an inch left to pass me.

Everyone encounters distracted drivers at intersections, the light turns red, many people try to text or read information from their phone, then the light turns green and the vehicle in front doesn't move. This seems harmless, but it has become the norm and results only in aggressive driving from those behind.

I urge you to pass this bill out of committee so that it can be brought to the Senate floor for a vote. This bill has the potential to improve the lives of countless Marylanders who use active transportation as well as reducing aggressive driving behaviors.

Sincerely,

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