

Please Support SB0613

February 11, 2025

To:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

From:

Mindy Badin, Transportation Committee Chair
Greater Olney Civic Association

Dear Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher:

There is an epidemic of distracted driving on our roadways. For this reason I strongly support the passage of SB0613 - "Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program." I respectfully request that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee submit a favorable response to enact this bill.

Having lost my 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.



Many people are choosing to ignore the fact that when they operate their vehicle without full attention, they can cause lasting catastrophic impacts to themselves and others. They are driving irresponsibly when they choose to use their wireless communication devices when they are behind the wheel.

I am sure that all of us have experiences with distracted drivers on their cell phones. In one particularly memorable event, I was driving on Route 32 when a driver with a cell phone in their hand tried to merge onto the roadway; they did not look to see if it was safe to do so. I very narrowly avoided a crash that day, and the sight of that person looking down at their device is one I will never forget.

In 2024 there were 556 fatalities on our Maryland roadways, 140 of those fatalities occurred in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Approving SB0613 will help ensure public safety by making distracted drivers more accountable for their actions; it will be one more tool to ensure the safety of law-abiding Maryland citizens as they use our roadways for driving, biking, or walking. Approval will help to advance the goals of our Vision Zero programs.

I thank you and the Judicial Proceedings Committee members, and I urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support SB0613.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin

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