



Young Democrats of Maryland

SB292– Motor Vehicles – Secondary Enforcement and Admissibility of Evidence

Judicial Proceedings Committee – 2/28/25

SUPPORT

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this priority bill for the Young Democrats of Maryland. YDM represents the next generation of Marylanders and seeks to advance policies which will allow Maryland youth to thrive.

Young Democrats of Maryland strongly support SB292, the Safer Traffic Stops for All Act. Data shows that younger and less experienced drivers, particularly young men of color, are more likely to be stopped by law enforcement. These interactions too often escalate into harmful or traumatic experiences that undermine trust in police, and carry long-term consequences for young people. This bill addresses these disparities by reclassifying non-safety-related traffic infractions as secondary offenses, preventing officers from stopping drivers for minor violations that do not pose immediate safety risks. This change is vital to protecting younger drivers, who are at heightened risk of negative interactions during traffic stops.

Additionally, research shows that men and younger adults, including adolescents, tend to engage in higher levels of risky or unlawful behaviors, which may lead law enforcement officers to pre-judge, and scrutinize younger men more closely during traffic stops compared to older individuals or women, [regardless of race or ethnicity](#). This additional scrutiny, combined with existing racial disparities in traffic stops, places younger Black and Latinx men at an even greater risk of being stopped by police. To ensure the safety of young people on the road, and law enforcement resources are being utilized most efficiently, this bill would be a crucial step forward in advancing these objectives. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support for SB292, and strongly urge a favorable committee report.

Mark Brewster II

YDM Vice President for Political Affairs

Chair, YDM Legislative and Policy Committee