



**PLEASE SUPPORT
HB 883**
“Criminal Law – Motor Vehicle or Vessel
– Criminal Negligence”

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES MD HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR HB 883**

February 17, 2025

TO:

Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Maryland General Assembly
100 Taylor House Office Building
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.
(202) 468-7682, JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org
SafeRoadsMD.org

RE: Urgent Support for HB 883 – Criminal Law – Motor Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence

Dear Chair Clippinger, Co-Chair Bartlett and esteemed members of the House Judiciary Committee.

I am writing to express my **strong and urgent support** for House Bill 883, which would prohibit individuals from driving, operating, or controlling a motor vehicle or vessel in a criminally negligent manner.

As road fatalities and reckless driving incidents continue to plague Maryland communities, we must decisively take legislative action to more effectively hold offenders accountable and protect the people of Maryland.

The need for this legislation is undeniable. HB 883 was introduced in view of the tragic and preventable egregiously, criminally aggressive driving crash in 2023 that gravely injured Montgomery County Police Sergeant Patrick Kepp.



Sgt. Patrick Kepp's prosthetic legs (WUSA9)

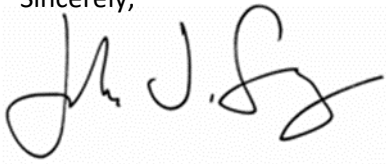
Under HB 883, individuals who drive with reckless disregard for the safety of others could face up to six months in prison or a \$5,000 fine, with stricter penalties for causing life-threatening injuries. This is a necessary and measured response to the devastating consequences of criminal negligence on our roads. Holding drivers accountable for grossly irresponsible behavior is not just about punishment—it is about **deterrence, prevention, and saving lives.**

Current Maryland laws fail to distinguish between minor negligence and the kind of egregious recklessness that endangers lives daily. HB 883 closes this dangerous gap, ensuring that those who treat our roads as lawless zones face real consequences. **No family should have to suffer the loss of a loved one because our laws were too weak to address the growing crisis of dangerous driving.**

As the House Judiciary Committee considers this critical bill on February 19, I urge you to **prioritize public safety and vote in favor of HB 883.** Maryland's residents deserve safer roads, and this bill is a crucial step toward achieving that goal. I appreciate your time and dedication to protecting our communities and strongly encourage your support of this essential legislation.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng", is written over a light gray dotted rectangular background.

John J. Seng
Chair
Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: SafeRoadsMD Board, S. Morningstar - Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations