

# **Chiefs Testimony Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Anthony Ayers

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

Chair and Members of the Committee,

As Chiefs of Police across Prince George's County, we are here today to express our collective and unwavering support for legislation authorizing automated enforcement of distracted driving.

Every day, we see firsthand the consequences of distracted driving: avoidable crashes, severe injuries, and lost lives. Distracted driving is not just a problem—it is an epidemic. A countywide pilot program revealed a staggering **1,250 violations per day** across just four locations, with an alarming **30% of drivers** failing to give the road their full attention. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent real dangers to our communities, our families, and our officers.

Traditional enforcement for distraction is close to impossible — methods require significant time and manpower, often forcing officers to choose between enforcing traffic laws and responding to emergencies. Automated enforcement provides a solution that allows us to deter dangerous behavior while keeping officers focused on critical public safety duties.

When other types of automated enforcement were first introduced in our communities, many residents were skeptical, fearing privacy concerns and revenue motives. However, a once-dangerous intersection plagued by crashes saw immediate improvements—fewer drivers running stop signs, fewer speeding vehicles, and, most importantly, fewer crashes. Over time, former critics became strong advocates, seeing safer streets, protected pedestrians, and more secure businesses. Today, parents, seniors, and local shop owners support these measures, knowing they make our communities safer.

Automated enforcement is a proven tool for improving road safety, and we need a solution to end this key cause of pedestrian fatalities. We urge you to support this legislation and take a stand for safer roads, for fewer tragedies, and for a Prince George's County where every resident—whether driver, pedestrian, or cyclist—feels protected.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Anthony Ayers, Cottage City Police Department

Chief Linwood Alston, Mount Rainier Police Department

Chief Anthony Rease, Forest Heights Police Department

Chief Regis Bryant, Glenarden Police Department

**sb0613supportsigned.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel Franklin

Position: FAV



# Morningside Police Department

6901 Ames Street  
Morningside, MD 20746  
Phone: 301-736-7400



**Daniel J. Franklin**  
**Chief of Police**

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr. – Chair

FROM: Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255  
Morningside Police Department

RE: Written Testimony Supporting SB 0613  
Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program

DATE: February 11, 2025

Greetings Chairman Smith and the members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

My name is Daniel Franklin, and I am the Chief of Police for the Morningside Police Department in Prince George's County, Maryland. After careful review of SB 0613 sponsored by Senators Jackson and Waldstreicher, I am submitting this written testimony **SUPPORTING** the passage of the bill.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving as per the National Highway Traffic Safety Association.

In 2022, NHTSA reported that 3,308 people were killed due to distracted driving in the United States. Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) reports that approximately 27,000 people are killed or injured in distracted driving accidents every year. In response to this issue, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 321 and House Bill 924 making use of handheld cellular phones while driving an illegal act. Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed!

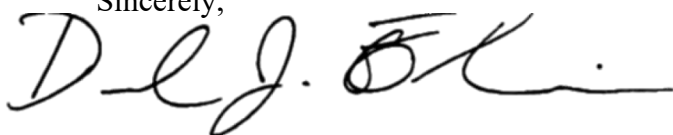
The use of technology to combat traffic offenses is an ever-evolving solution employed by thousands of governmental units and law enforcement agencies across the United States. Automated enforcement has become even more important due to what some Police administrators and managers are calling a manpower crisis

because of declining interest in the law enforcement field. Automated enforcement cannot replace a Police Officer, but that technology can supplement the efforts of the Police by helping reduce distracted driving by conducting enforcement actions. The bottom line in conducting any distracted driving enforcement is to promote greater roadway safety for all drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. By seeking legislation to allow automated distracted driving enforcement, the counties of Prince George's and Montgomery will show their commitment to the overall highway safety mission. By passing this bill, the Maryland General Assembly will show that they too are committed to that same mission and are prepared to take the necessary steps to prevent injuries and deaths due to distracted driving.

For these reasons, I ask that the committee give a favorable report on SB 0613 and accept my written testimony **SUPPORTING** SB 0613.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D.J. Franklin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Daniel J. Franklin #0255  
Morningside Police Department

## **Lt. Unger Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Daniel Unger

Position: FAV

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Lieutenant Daniel Unger of the Berwyn Heights Police Department, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of legislation authorizing automated enforcement of distracted driving in Prince George's County. This technology offers a practical solution to a persistent issue that endangers every member of our community.

Distracted driving is a crisis I see on our streets every day. It not only jeopardizes lives but also drains resources from law enforcement already stretched thin. Addressing this issue demands significant time and manpower—both of which are increasingly difficult to spare.

Recent data from a pilot study shows 100 distraction violations per day at just two locations in Berwyn Heights. This highlights the severity of this problem in our area and the urgent need for a more efficient enforcement strategy.

Automated enforcement, powered by modern privacy-preserving technology, offers a balanced solution. It enhances enforcement capabilities while maintaining public trust by safeguarding individual privacy. This approach allows us to prioritize safety without compromising the values we hold dear.

I urge you to support this critical legislation. With your backing, we can reduce accidents, save lives, and relieve the mounting strain on local law enforcement.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Daniel Unger

Berwyn Heights Police Department

# **Carrington 2025 PGC sb613hb908 Pilot Distracted Dr**

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV





# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

### **SB613\HB908**

Sens. Jackson  
and Waldstreicher  
Dels. Foley and Roberson

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

## POSITION:

## SUPPORT

The Prince George's County Council respectfully submits its support for SB613/HB908, which establishes a pilot program authorizing the use of distracted driving monitoring systems in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. This program is designed to enforce prohibitions on the use of certain devices while operating a vehicle, a growing public safety issue as distracted driving continues to be a significant factor in accidents and fatalities across the state. The legislation also requires participating counties to report on the program's effectiveness by December 1, 2027.

The Prince George's County Council believes that SB613/HB908 is a vital step in addressing the dangers of distracted driving. By leveraging technology to monitor and enforce these laws, the program has the potential to reduce accidents, improve road safety, and encourage compliance with traffic laws. The required reporting will generate valuable data to assess the effectiveness of the pilot program, enabling informed decisions about its future expansion or modification.

This initiative aligns with the County's ongoing efforts to protect residents, reduce traffic-related incidents, and promote responsible driving behavior. The Council strongly urges the State to pass this legislation as a critical tool for advancing road safety across Maryland.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB613/HB908** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

---

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council

**Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland**  
**20772**

# **Obvio Distraction Hearing Submission.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dhruv Maheshwari

Position: FAV

### **Chair and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Dhruv Maheshwari and I'm the co-founder and CEO of Obvio, Inc – a leading provider of traffic safety technology. I'm writing this written testimony SUPPORTING the passage of SB0613, for distracted driving. As an expert in traffic safety & technology, our company (along with others) have invented technology that can help end the epidemic of distracted driving, while protecting the privacy of individuals & reducing the burden on law enforcement. Below is more information the technology, how it can be used for automated enforcement and background on our company.

### **Privacy-Preserving Distracted Driving Solution**



Obvio's state-of-the-art distracted driving solution is focused on solving one of the deadliest problems in road safety today.

- **Hand-held Device Detection:** detects usage of cell phone in hand, while vehicle is in motion
- **On-Device Anonymization:** Preserves privacy & removes bias by blurring driver & any person (in vehicle or on street) & converting footage to black & white. *This all occurs on-device before the violation video is uploaded.*
- **Industry-leading Privacy Focus:**
  - Only violation videos & evidence leaves the device
  - All data on device is destroyed within hours (as per legislation & municipality preference)
  - No facial-recognition possible (since videos are blurred & anonymized instantly)

- Public safety agencies retain 100% ownership of their data and have the sole authority to determine authorized users on their accounts
- Advanced auditing and compliance measures: all access to data is secured, with meticulous logging of who accessed any image & when
- Strict Sharing Policies: Obvio does not share any footage or data with third parties, including repossession companies, towing companies, or other commercial entities.

## Usage for Automated Enforcement



Montgomery County Police Department  
Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit  
Post Office Box 10549  
Rockville, Maryland 20849

### CELL PHONE USAGE VIOLATION

You can watch color video & images, and pay with  
Visa/Mastercard at: <http://letsdrivesafer.com>

**CITATION #:**

**PIN:**

Date: September 25th, 2024

To: John Doe

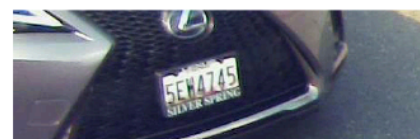
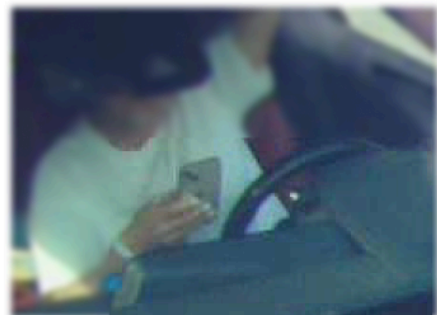
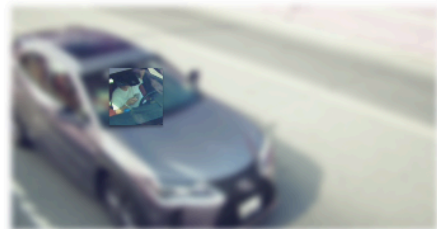
Please take notice that the vehicle described and pictured herein was captured using Cell Phone in hands, at the location, date, and time specified below, in violation of Title \_\_ Subtitle \_\_ of the Transportation Article. Therefore, under Maryland State Law, Transportation Article \_\_-\_\_, as the registered owners) or lessee (six months or more) you are liable for the violation. Unless you elect to go to court, a civil penalty in the amount of \$\_\_ must be paid by the due date shown on this notice.

**PAYMENT OF THE PENALTY AMOUNT FOR THE VIOLATION WILL NOT RESULT IN POINTS AND CANNOT BE USED TO INCREASE YOUR INSURANCE RATES.**

**WARNING: FAILURE TO PAY THE PENALTY SHOWN, OR TO CONTEST LIABILITY DESCRIBED IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH IS AN ADMISSION OF LIABILITY AND MAY RESULT IN THE REFUSAL OR SUSPENSION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.**

You must pay or contest this citation by the due date noted below. If you appear in court, the maximum amount you can be charged is \$500.00 fine plus court costs.

Recorded images are evidence of a violation of the Maryland law requiring that vehicle must come to a complete stop before the Stop Sign.



The detection can be used to support driver monitoring systems similar to speed, red-light and other types of monitoring systems. Evidence captured would include video evidence of the

vehicle in motion, front (or back) license plate photo, and a privacy-focused image of the behavior in action.

These systems can be entirely cost-neutral to municipalities as the cost of this technology has been reduced significantly and can be covered by citation revenue. Any additional citation revenue collected can be used to fund pedestrian safety initiatives (education, check-points, engineering and more).

## Obvio Background

Obvio is a Silicon Valley-based technology company, dedicated to improving road safety for our communities, schools, and neighborhoods. As parents ourselves, we started feeling a sense of anxiety on our way to school pick-up & drop-off in the mornings and afternoons: more drivers are speeding, skipping stop signs, using cell phones while driving, than ever before. It doesn't feel quite as safe to let our kids walk to school as it used to be. The stats reinforce this feeling – in 2023, there were close to 41,000 people who passed away due to a traffic crash; 1,100 of whom were children. Our mission is to change this both for our children and for everyone on the roads: pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers.

The founding team has a long history of building traffic safety technology that actually works. Prior to founding Obvio, the team spent years building traffic safety cameras for Motive Technologies. We deployed over 150,000 products across commercial trucks, helping reduce traffic crashes in vehicles by over 25%.

Maryland Experience: Municipalities such as Berwyn Heights, Colmar Manor, Morningside, Capitol Heights, and Brentwood are using Obvio to implement stop sign enforcement solutions that help improve road-safety for pedestrians in school zones.

## Conclusion

We believe technology has sufficiently advanced to support the needs of public safety and we strongly encourage the committee to move forward with this pilot legislation to help the country solve a critical problem.

Thanks,  
Dhruv Maheshwari  
CEO, Obvio Inc.



# **SafeRoadsMD Supports SB 0613.pdf**

Uploaded by: John Seng

Position: FAV



**PLEASE SUPPORT  
SB 0613**

“Montgomery County and Prince  
George’s County – Distracted Driving  
3 Monitoring System Pilot Program”

**MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.**

**URGES MD SENATE JPR COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR SB 0613**

February 11, 2025

**TO:**

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Chair  
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**FROM:**

John Seng, Chair  
SafeRoadsMD - Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.  
(202) 468-7682, [JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org](mailto:JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org)  
[SafeRoadsMD.org](http://SafeRoadsMD.org)

**Subject: Urgent Need for Distracted Driving Enforcement – Support SB 0613**

Dear Sen. Smith, Sen. Waldstreicher and Members of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety (SafeRoadsMD) urges your support for SB 0613 - “Montgomery County and Prince George’s County – Distracted Driving 3 Monitoring System Pilot Program.” We thank Sen. Waldstreicher and Sen. Jackson for crafting and co-sponsoring the bill.

**The Crisis: Distracted Driving Kills More Marylanders Than Any Other Factor**

Despite existing laws prohibiting handheld phone use while driving, enforcement remains a significant challenge, leaving our roads unsafe for all. The **Maryland Department of Transportation (2023)** confirms that distracted driving is now the leading cause of crashes and fatalities in our state, annually accounting for:

- **203 deaths**—34% of all traffic fatalities and
- **50,000 crashes**—a staggering 46% of all reported accidents.

On a national level, the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)** recently reported that distracted driving fatalities run far higher than previously estimated, likely exceeding **10,000 deaths per year**—nearly **29% of all traffic fatalities**.

**Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.**  
2127 Regina Terrace, Clarksburg, MD 20871 (202) 468-7682

## Marylanders Recognize the Danger

A vast majority of drivers—**more than 95%**—agree that texting or reading messages while driving is “very or extremely dangerous” (AAA). Scientific research supports this concern:

- A distracted driver’s impairment is **comparable to having a .08 BAC level** (University of Utah).
- **Texting while driving increases crash risk by 23 times** (Virginia Tech Transportation Institute).
- A **single text message** takes a driver’s eyes off the road for **10 seconds**, enough to travel almost **two city blocks at 35 mph** without looking up.

## The Problem: Lack of Enforcement Allows Distracted Driving to Thrive

Despite Maryland’s existing hands-free law, enforcement has been ineffective due to resource constraints. Most police departments lack the staff resources to enforce against distracted driving.

- Recent studies found that **20-30% of drivers** in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties were using their phones while driving, translating to thousands of daily violations.



Allstate Insurance

Nationwide research supports these findings. An analysis of **570 million trips by 3 million drivers** showed that phone use occurs during **88 out of every 100 trips**. These numbers reveal an undeniable reality: Distracted driving is an epidemic, and our current approach to enforcement is failing.

## The Solution: A Fair, Privacy-Protected Enforcement System

**SB 0613 and its companion HB908** propose a pilot program in **Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties** that will deploy **automated enforcement technology** to detect handheld phone use while driving - in other words, to enforce the law.

- This technology allows for fair, impartial, privacy-conscious detection of distracted driving while ensuring no personal identification is compromised.
- **A \$40 citation**, similar to existing automated enforcement programs (e.g., speed cameras), is issued to the vehicle owner.
- **Evidence includes:**
  - A **black-and-white anonymized image** (protecting driver identity).
  - **Video of the violation** to confirm phone use.
  - A **clear image of the license plate** for citation processing.

## The Impact: Safer Roads and Stronger Accountability

Automated enforcement has **proven to reduce unsafe behaviors by over 70%** in other traffic enforcement programs. Additionally, past legislative bans on texting led to a **4% reduction in traffic-related ER visits nationwide**—a number that would only grow with **effective enforcement**.



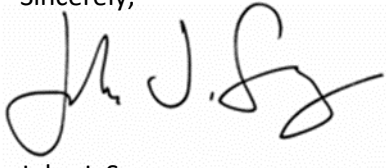
### A Call to Action: Protecting Future Generations

Distracted driving is not just an individual risk—it's a behavior that gets passed down. Research shows that children of distracted drivers are **twice as likely** to drive distracted themselves (National Safety Council).

By supporting **SB 0613**, members of the Maryland Senate JPR have the power to **make Maryland's roads safer for everyone**—including our children, pedestrians, cyclists, and responsible drivers. We finally have the technology to **enforce the law fairly, effectively, and with minimal intrusion**. Let's use it before more lives are needlessly lost.

**Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your leadership to stem the bloodshed caused by distracted driving.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Seng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John J. Seng  
Chair

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.

cc: Rev. Dr. R. Screen, R. Weiss - Route 210 Safety Committee; SafeRoadsMD Board

## **SB613**

Uploaded by: Luke Pinton

Position: FAV

February 11, 2025

Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

*Via email*

**Re: NAMIC support for Senate Bill 613 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County -  
Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program**

Members of the Committee:

The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) is reaching out to express our support for Senate Bill 613 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program by Senator Jackson. This legislative proposal will help enhance road safety and reduce the risks associated with distracted driving.

NAMIC is the largest property and casualty insurance trade association in the country, with over 1,300 member companies. NAMIC supports regional and local mutual insurance companies as well as some of the country's largest national insurers. NAMIC member companies write \$383 billion in annual premiums nationally, and our members account for 61 percent of homeowners, 48 percent of automobile, and 25 percent of the business insurance markets.

Distracted driving continues to be a significant threat to drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike. The proposed pilot program in Senate Bill 613 gives law enforcement the necessary tools to better identify and address distracted driving offenses. The ability to use monitoring systems to enforce safe driving behaviors encourages a more efficient and accurate way to keep our roads safer.

NAMIC supports this legislative proposal as an important step in enhancing road safety and reducing preventable accidents and we kindly ask you give Senate Bill 613 a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Gina Rotunno  
Regional Vice President  
Mid-Atlantic Region

# **SB 613 - MoCo\_Elrich\_FAV (GA 25).pdf**

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FAV



## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

February 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 613, *Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program*

Support

---

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 613, *Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program*. The legislation would allow Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to pilot an automated enforcement system to detect distracted driving. The bill specifies prohibited use of a handheld cell phone while operating a vehicle as distracted driving but maintains existing exclusions for the use of a cellphone while driving to contact global positioning systems (GPS) or text messaging to a 9-1-1 system. Under the bill, a person liable for a violation would be subject to a civil fine not exceeding \$40 to be paid directly or appealed to the District Court.

Distracted driving is a risk to public safety on our roadways. It diverts a driver's attention, and in a matter of seconds, can reduce a driver's response time to traffic conditions. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that more than 32,000 people died in crashes involving distracted driving between 2013 and 2022. That includes any activity that takes a driver's attention away from the road, and it is an alarming statistic for preventable deaths. In Montgomery County's efforts to advance our Vision Zero goals, last year, we ran a small proof of concept study of automated enforcement technology to detect distracted driving involving the use of a cell phone. After three days of testing the equipment at three locations in the County. Nearly 800 violations were recorded over the three-day period.

Authorizing a limited pilot of this automated enforcement technology in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties would allow for a more robust study of the technology and provide a greater opportunity to identify potential issues that could be improved upon before considering a wider deployment.

To that end, I urge that the Committee adopt a favorable report on Senate Bill 613.

# **PrinceGeorgesSB613SupportLetter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

MICHAEL A. JACKSON  
CHAIR

RON WATSON, PH.D  
VICE CHAIR



MALCOLM AUGUSTINE  
JOANNE C. BENSON  
NICK CHARLES  
C. ANTHONY MUSE  
JIM ROSAPEPE  
ALONZO T. WASHINGTON

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SENATE DELEGATION

February 6, 2025

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

Dear Chair Smith:

Please let this letter serve as official notice of the support of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation for Senate Bill 613 (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties – Distracted Driving Pilot Program).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael A. Jackson", written in a cursive style.

Senator Michael A. Jackson, Chair  
Prince George's County Senate Delegation

# **SB613Testimony2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV



MICHAEL A. JACKSON  
Legislative District 27  
Calvert, Charles and  
Prince George's Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Pensions

Procurement

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3700  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700  
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 613***

***MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY –  
DISTRACTED DRIVING MONITORING SYSTEM PILOT  
PROGRAM***

***JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE***

***FEBRUARY 13, 2025***

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 613 is a straight-forward piece of legislation to combat distracted driving by establishing a pilot program in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties to monitor cell phone usage through automated technology.

Studies have repeatedly shown that distracted driving is the leading cause of motor vehicle crashes and fatalities. Automated enforcement has proven to reduce such behaviors and the corresponding injuries and fatalities.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in public safety, I am confident that this legislation would prove an effective deterrent to the dangerous practice of distracted driving.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 613.**

# **SB0613Written.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mindy Badin

Position: FAV

# 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

4212 Charley Forest Street  
Olney, MD 20832  
[minbad001@yahoo.com](mailto:minbad001@yahoo.com)

# **SB 613 DD Pilot Program FAV 02132025 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Nancy Egan

Position: FAV



## Testimony of

**American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**Senate Bill 613 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program**

**February 13, 2025**

### **Letter of Opposition**

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) is a national trade organization whose members write approximately 66.9% of the private passenger auto insurance and 82.4% of the commercial auto insurance in the Maryland market. APCIA appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments in support of Senate Bill 613.

Senate Bill 613 would establish a pilot program to authorize the use of distracted driving monitoring systems in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. The systems would be used to enforce certain prohibitions regarding the use of wireless communications systems while operating a vehicle; and requiring that a county that authorizes a program of distracted driving monitoring systems under the Act to report on the effectiveness of the systems on or before December 1, 2027. Unfortunately, the citation is similar to those issued for violation of red light cameras and speed monitoring cameras is not a moving a violation for the assessing of points.

However, dangerous driving behaviors are also having an impact on costs. As daily driving patterns and traffic volumes rebound from pandemic lows, traffic fatalities remain alarmingly high. Fatal crashes involving risky behaviors like distraction, impaired driving, and speeding remain an epidemic on our roadways. Drivers were distracted in the minute before a crash in 34 percent of crashes, according to data from Cambridge Mobile Telematics. Likewise, **crashes where the driver was making a handheld phone call happened at speeds 31 percent higher than crashes without a handheld phone call.** These higher speeds increase the severity of a crash.

This bill is a step in the right direction to curb distracted driving and keep drivers focused on the road.

For these reasons, APCIA urges the Committee to provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 613.

Nancy J. Egan,

State Government Relations Counsel, DC, DE, MD, VA, WV

[Nancy.egan@APCIA.org](mailto:Nancy.egan@APCIA.org) Cell: 443-841-4174

# **SB 613 DD Pilot Program FAV 02132025 .pdf**

Uploaded by: Nancy Egan

Position: FAV



## Testimony of

### American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

#### Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

#### Senate Bill 613 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County - Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program

February 13, 2025

#### Letter of Support

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) is a national trade organization whose members write approximately 66.9% of the private passenger auto insurance and 82.4% of the commercial auto insurance in the Maryland market. APCIA appreciates the opportunity to provide written comments in support of Senate Bill 613.

Senate Bill 613 would establish a pilot program to authorize the use of distracted driving monitoring systems in Montgomery County and Prince George's County. The systems would be used to enforce certain prohibitions regarding the use of wireless communications systems while operating a vehicle; and requiring that a county that authorizes a program of distracted driving monitoring systems under the Act to report on the effectiveness of the systems on or before December 1, 2027. Unfortunately, the citation is similar to those issued for violation of red light cameras and speed monitoring cameras is not a moving a violation for the assessing of points.

However, dangerous driving behaviors are also having an impact on costs. As daily driving patterns and traffic volumes rebound from pandemic lows, traffic fatalities remain alarmingly high. Fatal crashes involving risky behaviors like distraction, impaired driving, and speeding remain an epidemic on our roadways. Drivers were distracted in the minute before a crash in 34 percent of crashes, according to data from Cambridge Mobile Telematics. Likewise, **crashes where the driver was making a handheld phone call happened at speeds 31 percent higher than crashes without a handheld phone call.** These higher speeds increase the severity of a crash.

This bill is a step in the right direction to curb distracted driving and keep drivers focused on the road.

For these reasons, APCIA urges the Committee to provide a favorable report on Senate Bill 613.

Nancy J. Egan,

State Government Relations Counsel, DC, DE, MD, VA, WV

[Nancy.egan@APCIA.org](mailto:Nancy.egan@APCIA.org) Cell: 443-841-4174



# **Sb613Glenarden.pdf**

Uploaded by: Regis Bryant

Position: FAV



Regis Bryant  
Chief of Police

## Glenarden Police Department

8600 Glenarden Parkway  
Glenarden, MD 20706  
rbryant@cityofglenarden.org

TELEPHONES  
O: (301) 772-3214  
C: (240) 805-3987

**February 6, 2025**

Senator Anthony Muse  
Maryland State Senate

Dear Senator Muse,

As Chief of Police in Glenarden, I want to express my unwavering support for legislation enabling automated enforcement of distracted driving in Prince George's County. This technology offers a practical solution to a persistent issue that endangers every member of our community.

Distracted driving is a crisis I see on our streets every day. It not only jeopardizes lives but also drains resources from law enforcement already stretched thin. Addressing this issue demands significant time and manpower—both of which are increasingly difficult to spare.

Recent data from a pilot study shows 459 distraction violations per day at just one location in Cottage City, which is a staggering 45% violation rate. This shows the severity of this problem in our area, highlighting the urgent need for a more efficient enforcement strategy.

Automated enforcement, powered by modern privacy-preserving technology, offers a balanced solution. It enhances enforcement capabilities while maintaining public trust by safeguarding individual privacy. This approach allows us to prioritize safety without compromising the values we hold dear.

I urge you to champion this critical legislation. With your support, we can reduce accidents, save lives, and relieve the mounting strain on local law enforcement.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Regis Bryant", written over a horizontal line.

Regis Bryant  
Chief of Police  
Glenarden Police Department

*"Teamwork"*

# **Support for SB 613, Ron Weiss.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

**Support for SB 613 - Montgomery County and Prince George's County – Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program**

**Ron Weiss, Fort Washington**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I live near MD 210, and it is my main street. Every day, I share this highway with 80,000 vehicles, some of which are driven by people who take reckless and dangerous risks including using their cellphone while driving. My goal, like so many others who travel this dangerous road, is simple: I just want to get home safely.

I strongly support the use of an automated system to enforce distracted driving laws on MD 210 because:

Distracted driving leads to **longer reaction times** which contributes to a high crash risk and a higher risk of a more serious crash.

Enforcing distracting driving laws is **resource-intensive** and not always effective.

**Automated enforcement of distracted driving has been proven effective:**

The Australian New South Wales (NSW) Government implemented mobile phone detection cameras in 2019, and a **six-month trial** identified over **100,000 violations** from **8.5 million vehicles**.

The violation rate **dropped by two-thirds** since the program's introduction.

I am convinced that this pilot program will save lives on MD 210.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Weiss

MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee Founding Member

## **SB0613\_ Montgomery County and Prince George's Coun**

Uploaded by: Steve Ashurst

Position: FAV

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,

Steve Ashurst  
14401 Hollyhock Way  
Burtonsville, MD 20866  
steve.a.md3@gmail.com  
330-474-3147

# **Testimony to Maryland General Assembly SB 613 Dist**

Uploaded by: Tolores Holmes

Position: FAV

Testimony to Maryland General Assembly SB 613 Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program - Support

Tolores Holmes

314 Taurus Drive Fort Washington, MD 20744

HolmesTBear@aol.com 240 899-4340

RE: Support of SB 613 Distracted Driving Monitoring System Pilot Program - Prince George's County

I am Tolores Holmes an active member of the Tantallon Square Area Civic Association speaking for myself in support of SB 613. Distracted driving is a major contributor to multiple accidents on Route 210. Many of my community members, neighbors, friends and my family members have been injured and killed on Route 210 also known as the "Highway of Death". Road safety depends on users following the rules of the road to provide a predictable environment for all users. While most people drive responsibly on MD 210, there is a significant number of distracted drivers. I have been a resident of Fort Washington, Maryland for more than 30 years and have witnessed an increase in distracted driving. It's unbelievable to observe drivers that are talking, texting, watching movies and doing various other activities while driving! Distracted driving also contributes to speeding, which on 210 vehicles have been clocked at over 168 miles per hour. As a result, MD 210 continues to be one of the deadliest roads in Prince George's County and Maryland. Distracted drivers inject chaos into our road environment and make our travel much riskier. The SB 613 Pilot Program will reduce accidents, increase road safety awareness, ensure compliance with existing traffic laws and most importantly save lives. I urge you to support the approval of SB 613. Thank you for your consideration.

~~Tolores Holmes~~