

# Please Support HB0883

February 17, 2025

To:

Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Honorable Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
100 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

From:

Mindy Badin, Transportation Committee Chair  
Greater Olney Civic Association  
4212 Charley Forest Street  
Olney, MD 20832  
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Dear Chair Clippinger and Vice Chair Bartlett:

I strongly support the passage of HB0883 "Criminal Law - Motor Vehicle or Vessel - Criminal Negligence." This bill will hold individuals accountable for actions that recklessly endanger the safety and lives of others on our roadways and waterways. I respectfully request that the House Judiciary 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.



The consequences of reckless driving and negligence in operating motor vehicles and vessels can be dire. In our own communities, Sgt. Patrick Kepp lost his legs when he was allegedly deliberately hit by a person known to police. Officer Noah Leotta was killed by an impaired driver as he was working a drunk driving task force. Six highway workers were killed by people driving recklessly at overly excessive speeds in a work zone. These high-profile crashes were covered by news outlets; there are many more crashes due to criminal negligence that, even though less high-profile, the affected families feel no less pain. I have attended too many ghost shoes and ghost bike memorials.

All these crashes were avoidable; they happened because the conduct of these motorists caused fatal or life-threatening injuries. By criminalizing negligent behaviors, this bill will deter these actions and send a message that these behaviors are both unacceptable and punishable under the law.

In 2024 there were 556 fatalities on our Maryland roadways. As a state we need to do better. Approving HB0883 will help ensure public safety by making sure those behind the wheel or on the water are held accountable for their actions; I believe that appropriate criminal penalties will be an effective deterrent. It will be one more tool to ensure the safety of law-abiding Maryland citizens as they use the roadways and waterways. I thank you and the House Judiciary Committee members, and I urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support HB0883.

Sincerely,

Mindy Badin