

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Beatriz, and I support Senate Bill 44, which addresses Reckless and Negligent Driving resulting in death and mandates a court appearance for such violations.

I was heartbroken to discover that my family isn't alone in facing this injustice: the inability to confront the person who took our loved one away. It's devastating to realize that my brother's life was valued at just \$1,000, allowing Mr. Savory to walk free. Other families, like Sherry's and Christian's, also deserve the closure we've been denied. Writing this honors them; we all deserve peace amid this struggle.

My brother Jonathan worked part-time as a limo driver to support his children. On March 3, 2024, at 4 a.m., he was hit by a drunk driver who did not even realize he had struck him. At the time of the accident, the driver was going 33 mph, which caused my brother to fly 22 feet from the impact. Jonathan lay lifeless on the ground and ultimately suffered severe injuries, including the loss of an eye and 22 skull fractures. Tragically, he succumbed to his injuries two days later, on March 5.

This loss has shattered my family, and we are still searching for ways to heal. My mother has lost the will to carry on, and my nephews miss their father deeply. Witnessing my mother mourn my best friend has been haunting and exhausting. I can see the sadness in her eyes and the dullness in her tone. I am also mourning my mother. She seems like a shell of her former self, merely going through the motions of life now. She will never be the person I once knew. I continue to hold onto fragments of memories of him as we navigate through this heartbreaking journey.

All three of these families have lost someone dear, and we stand united against this injustice. I urge you to support the passage of this bill today; we cannot allow this tragedy to affect another family. In Maryland, an average of 572 fatalities are reported annually, far too many labeled as "accidents." It is time to enact the Sherry and Christian Law to hold individuals accountable and prevent them from simply paying a fine to evade responsibility. Let's not allow another family to suffer this heartache. I respectfully ask the members to support Senate Bill 44.

