

February 17, 2025

Written Testimony – Bill HB676

To the General Assembly,

My name is Brian Slattery II. On July 3rd, 2022 My parents were coming back into the mouth of the Magothy River after viewing fireworks at Rock Hall, on the Eastern Shore. Shortly after 10 P.M. Another vessel that was going faster than all other boats in the area overtook and collided with the stern of my parent's boat, coming to rest on top of my mother. My father pushed the boat off of her, a feat he said was very difficult. While frantically trying to ascertain the condition of my mom and make sure his boat wasn't taking on water, the operator of (the vessel that struck my parents and later defendant in a circuit court case), exchanged a few words with my father before fleeing the area. My mother died a short time later, she sustained too much damage as a result of the blunt force trauma. My father sustained fractured vertebrae and emotional trauma that will be with him for the rest of his days.

The defendant has 4 DUI cases while driving in a vehicle. Alcohol was present in this case but all that could be proved was the defendant consumed at least "a beer and a half". No doubt the primary reason he fled was fear of being convicted of yet another DUI. I would love to see the MD law change so hitting and running (leaving a scene of an accident before emergency services and the authorities can arrive) in a boat mirror those of hitting and running in a vehicle. It would have made a substantial difference in my parent's case. I am not sure why there is a disconnect between the two (Road v. Water).

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Brian Slattery