

SB 914/HB 1496: Vehicle Laws - Causing Serious Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee and Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT SB 914/HB 1496**.

These bills ensure fair and consistent application of penalties, recognizing that motorcyclists, while vulnerable on the road, should not be singled out in this statute in a way that creates unequal treatment compared to other vehicle operators under similar circumstances.

Current enhanced penalties for harming "vulnerable individuals" (often pedestrians, cyclists, or others) serve an important safety purpose, but including motorcyclists in this specific definition can lead to disproportionate or inconsistent outcomes in cases involving vehicle-to-vehicle incidents. **Excluding motorcyclists from this category promotes equity in the law without diminishing overall accountability for reckless or negligent driving that causes harm.**

This commonsense adjustment strengthens the integrity of our traffic laws, supports fair enforcement, and protects all road users by focusing penalties appropriately. Maryland drivers and riders deserve balanced, clear statutes that deter dangerous behavior without unintended disparities.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of SB 914/HB 1496**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my support for this important public safety and traffic enforcement legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals