



HB0008 – Dangerous Driver Accountability Act of 2026
House Environment & Transportation Committee
Bike Maryland and Statewide Coalition – FAVORABLE

February 5, 2026

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

My name is Nigel Samaroo, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Bike Maryland and a statewide coalition of advocates **in strong support of HB0008, the Dangerous Driver Accountability Act of 2026.**

Every day, Maryland's roads are shared by drivers, pedestrians, thousands of bicyclists and other vulnerable road users (VRUs) who rely on safe infrastructure and responsible behavior from all who use it. Yet too often, dangerous driving goes unchecked until tragedy occurs. For bicyclists, the consequences of repeated reckless behavior by motorists are not theoretical; they are immediate, physical, and sometimes fatal. A person on a bike has no steel frame, no airbags, and no margin for error when a driver chooses to speed, ignore signals, or drive distracted.

HB0008 addresses this reality with a balanced, evidence-based approach. By establishing a **Dangerous Driver Abatement Program**, the bill ensures that individuals who accumulate **three or more automated enforcement offenses** are required to complete a **Driver Accountability and Safety Course** within 90 days. This is not punitive for the sake of punishment, it is corrective. It gives drivers a structured opportunity to understand the risks their behavior creates and to change course before someone is seriously harmed.

Importantly, the bill recognizes the complexities of people's lives. It includes:

- **Flexible payment options** for low-income offenders
- A **hardship appeals process** for essential workers and those who rely on their vehicle as their only viable mode of transportation
- Graduated **sanctions**, including license suspension or, in limited cases, vehicle impoundment only if the driver refuses to complete the required safety course

This is a thoughtful, humane framework that prioritizes public safety without ignoring economic realities. From a bicyclist's perspective, HB0008 is not simply a policy improvement, it is a life-saving intervention. Automated enforcement violations are objective indicators of repeated dangerous behavior. When a driver has triggered multiple speed or red-light cameras, that pattern represents a clear and escalating threat to vulnerable road users. Bicyclists are disproportionately harmed in these scenarios, and too many Maryland families have endured preventable loss because a dangerous driver was allowed to continue unchecked.

HB0008 gives the state a tool it currently lacks: a way to intervene early, consistently, and fairly before dangerous driving results in irreversible harm.

Bike Maryland and the coalition of advocates listed below urge the Committee to recognize the profound safety benefits of this bill and to vote **FAVORABLE** on HB008. Maryland's bicyclists, pedestrians, and all who share our roads deserve a transportation system where accountability is the norm and safety is the expectation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nigel Samaroo, MPH
Board of Directors, Bike Maryland

Baltimore Bicycling Club (BBC)
Baltimoreans for People Oriented Places (BaltPOP)
Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (BikeAAA)
Bike Harford
Bike Maryland
Bikemore
Bike HoCo
Frederick Bicycle Coalition
Maryland Eastern Shore Trail Network
Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)