

Written Testimony in Support of SB0068 – The D TORCH Road Safety Act

Donnell G. Floyd Sr.

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donnell G. Floyd Sr. I submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 0068 (SB0068) as a father who lost his son in a preventable motorcycle crash.

On September 10, 2024, my life was forever changed when my son, Donnell G. Floyd Jr., was killed while riding his motorcycle. My son—known to many as Torch—was a responsible rider who, like thousands of others across Maryland, depended on drivers to see him, respect him, and share the road safely. That did not happen.

There are no words that can fully express the pain of losing a child. It is a grief that does not fade, a silence that never leaves, and a future that was taken far too soon. Every day, my family and I live with the reality that my son will never come home again.

What makes this loss even more devastating is knowing that his death was preventable.

Motorcyclists do not have the same physical protections as drivers in passenger vehicles. They rely heavily on the awareness, attentiveness, and responsibility of others. Too often, drivers are distracted, unaware, or uneducated about how to safely share the road with motorcycles.

SB0068 directly addresses this gap in driver education by requiring motorcycle safety awareness to be included in Maryland's motor vehicle examinations before drivers are licensed. This ensures motorists understand visibility, safe following distances, rider vulnerability, and the potentially fatal consequences of inattention.

Had this type of education and awareness been emphasized and required, my son's life may have been spared.

This bill is not about punishment or blame. It is about prevention, responsibility, and saving lives. Motorcycles are not objects on the road—they are people. Sons. Daughters. Fathers. Mothers.

I cannot bring my son back. But I can use my voice to speak for him and for the many riders who no longer can.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB0068. Doing so will honor the lives already lost and help prevent future families from experiencing the pain my family now lives with every day.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnell G. Floyd Sr.