

## Testimony in Support of SB0068: The D TORCH Road Safety Act

FROM: Bianca P. Floyd

DATE: Sunday, March 29, 2026

Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Bianca Floyd. I am submitting my written testimony before you not only as a Maryland resident but also thinking about my work in public history, the paths we have traveled and the history of the people who lived and worked along those roads.

I am also the daughter of Elois Hamilton, a community leader who, in the 1960s and 70s, fought to rename George Palmer Highway in Prince George's County to Martin Luther King Jr. Highway - believing that the names on our roads should reflect the dignity of the people who travel them. She was also the founding President of the Prince George's County Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Donnell Floyd Jr. was her grandson.

My mother's generation fought for the well being of the people who lived along the streets we travel. I know the path. I research that history, even in retirement. Today, my family - including my sister-in-law Jennifer E. Floyd, and my brother, Donnell Floyd Sr. - fight for the safety of our roads.

We are here because of my nephew, Donnell Floyd Jr., a young leader and founder of the Young Gunz Bike Club, whose life was tragically cut short.

Through the D TORCH Foundation, we are seeking to ensure that no other family has to process the pain of a life ended too soon if solutions towards prevention exist. In my research, I am pleased to see that the state has several efforts in this direction.

Senate Bill SB0068 only asks the Motor Vehicle Administration to "draw from a pool of at least five questions related to motorcycle safety awareness" on a driver's license exam. Looking at research online, I learned that in the United States, motorcycle riders are only a small percentage of those on the roads. In urban, or heavily populated areas, the importance of "safety" is all the more imperative. In one of the sources I found, it noted that in this country, motorcycle accidents "account for roughly **15%** of all traffic fatalities despite being only 3% of vehicles."

History is not just the past that we record; it is also how we improve the quality of our lives for the future.

In the 1980s, that meant changing a name. In 2026, it means changing our driver education to include motorcycle safety awareness. The D TORCH Road Safety Act ensures that every driver in Maryland is equipped with the knowledge to see, respect, and share the road with riders like Donnell."

As I noted in my previous support letter, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, we will be celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. No matter how we arrived here or how we began here, our history is a journey that constantly moves forward. I urge you to support SB0068, so that the phrase "safe travels" meets this moment and that of future generations.

As a Star Trek fan, I like what Captain Jean-Luc Picard would say at a time of decision making:

“Make It So.”

Sincerely,

Bianca P. Floyd  
Proud citizen of the State of Maryland