

Shirelle Green
January 16, 2026
Testimony in Support of Maryland SB0110 (Matéo's Law)

Good afternoon. My name is **Shirelle Green**. I am a mother, a lifelong Maryland resident, and an advocate for justice and safer roads. I am here today in strong support of **SB0110, Matéo's Law**—legislation born from unimaginable loss and an urgent need to prevent future tragedies.

On **April 6, 2024**, my son **Matéo** was one of three passengers in a single-vehicle crash caused by an impaired driver whose blood alcohol content was **twice the legal limit**. Despite clear indicators of intoxication, **no sobriety or impairment test was administered at the scene**. My son was pronounced brain dead on **April 7**, just **15 days after his 23rd birthday**. He was the **only fatality** in that crash.

The failure to conduct on-the-scene impairment testing delayed justice and compounded our grief. Nearly a year later, the driver ultimately received **18 months of incarceration out of a possible 10-year sentence**—18 months for taking a life and seriously injuring two others. That outcome was shocking and felt painfully inadequate given the irreversible harm caused to our family.

Matéo's Law (SB0110) would require **mandatory on-the-scene impairment testing** for any driver involved in a crash resulting in death or serious bodily injury. Justice should never depend on the discretion of a responding officer or the subjective judgment of an EMT. This bill ensures **timely evidence collection, accountability, and fairness**, while protecting the rights of both victims and drivers.

From 2019 (*The year Matéo graduated high school*) to 2023, there were an average of 142 impaired drivers in fatal crashes in Maryland. These are not just statistics, they are sons, daughters, parents, and friends. Later this year the statistics for 2024 will be released; my son will be included in those numbers. **Matéo's Law** is a necessary step toward preventing these losses and restoring public confidence in our justice system.

I have forgiven the driver in my son's case. He was released on **Christmas Day**, and while forgiveness is part of my healing, it does not erase the pain of living without my child while his offender returned home to his family. My family is learning how to survive a new normal—one without Matéo.

As you consider your vote, I ask you to take a moment to reflect on how a tragedy like this would affect your own family, or someone you love. None of us expect to face these traumatic moments, but thoughtful laws can help ensure that when the unthinkable happens, families are met with fairness, care, and accountability. **Matéo's Law** is about closing gaps, strengthening trust, and protecting families across Maryland. I respectfully ask for your support to advance **Matéo's Law** so that no other family has to endure delayed justice, inadequate accountability, or the 100% preventable loss of a loved one. Thank you for your time and for considering these critical measures.

