AAA's Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 0038
Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation
Sponsor: Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
(By Request – Departmental – Transportation)

- AAA **supports SB 0038 - Vehicle Laws - Ignition Interlock System Program - Required Participation,** which requires individuals to participate in the Ignition Interlock System Program (IISP) as a condition of modification of a suspension or revocation of a license or issuance of a restricted license if they have violated certain alcohol-related driving restrictions.

- This technical, yet important change to the current IISP will help strengthen Maryland's impaired driving framework and keep impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel.

- Despite substantial progress in reducing alcohol-impaired crashes, drunk driving remains a persistent and preventable problem both nationwide and in the state of Maryland.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2023, 12,429 people died in alcohol-impaired driving traffic deaths.

- In every state, it's illegal to drive drunk, yet one person is killed in a drunk driving crash every 42 minutes in the U.S., according to NHTSA.

- Last month, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAFTS) released a report revealing that while risky driving behaviors remain widespread, Americans strongly support a range of impaired-driving countermeasures that could significantly reduce fatalities.

- The results highlight a clear pattern: even as some drivers continue to take dangerous risks, most Americans want stronger safeguards that prevent impaired driving, including advanced vehicle technologies and more protective legal standards.

- Findings from the AAA Foundation survey:
    - **93%** of respondents say driving after drinking is very or extremely dangerous,
    - Yet **7%** say they did so in the past 30 days, which is troubling.
    - **67%** support requiring all new cars to include alcohol-impairment prevention technology.

- Expanding the use of ignition interlocks would help save lives in Maryland by preventing repeat offenses.

- While not a stand-alone solution, ignition interlocks are an essential tool for preventing impaired individuals from driving and putting themselves and others at risk on Maryland roadways.

- AAA appreciates the Committee's longstanding commitment to combat impaired driving on Maryland roads and respectfully request a favorable report for **SB 0038**.

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