

# Maryland General Assembly Letter/Testimony

**Subject: Testimony SB# 0066: JAMARI'S LAW**

**To:** The Honorable Members of the Senate

**From:** Francine Clark, Resident of District 29

**Date:** January 20, 2026

## 1. Opening & Identification:

- My name is Francine Clark, and I live in Solomons, Maryland, in District 29
- I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill SB# 0066, **JAMARI'S LAW**

## 2. My Connection & Why It Matters:

- I would like to thank the Judicial Committee, sponsored by Senator West and Senator Bailey for your support of Jamari's Law.
- As a family member, a mother and grandmother, this bill directly impacts my family and community because I have worked with young people at my church and local youth center for the past 25 years. I have taught drug and alcohol prevention and have seen first-hand through prevention training; the impact drinking and driving has had on our young people from both sides... the offender and the victim.
- Jamari's immediate family have suffered not only from Jamari's untimely death, but also from the anxiety this current sentencing laws allows for offenders who drive while drunk cause a fatality(s). It's a slap on the wrist for the offender, but also feel like a slap in the face of family and friends of the victim(s).

## 3. Specific Points & Impact:

- Passing SB#0066 is crucial because it ensures that sentencing is commensurate with the crime. This allows for some closure for the victim's family.
- Fatalities in Maryland vs National percentages is 5.1% above the National average.  
**Maryland 36.7% vs National 31.8** according to the 2022 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data. (source - Responsibility.org)
- "The current law which only sentences a drunk driver to 10 years max and allows the offenders to serve only 25% of their sentencing 2.5% which is 2.5 years and

even less for time served. This is unacceptable because it allows the offender to return to his/her life more quickly with insufficient time needed for remorse and rehabilitation making him/her more likely to be a repeat offender.

**4. Conclusion & Call to Action:**

- I urge you to vote in favor of Bill #0066 **JAMARI'S LAW**. Don't let Jamari's life have ended without the proper justice that will benefit all Marylanders.
  - Thank you for your time and consideration in addressing this vital issue **JAMARI'S LAW** for ALL Marylanders.
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