

Statement of Support for SB0066

My name is Leslie Everett, and I fully support the passage of SB0066.

Those who consume alcohol make a conscious decision to do so. With that decision comes the responsibility to plan for safe transportation and to never place others at risk. The driver in this case made a series of deliberate choices: the choice to consume alcohol, the choice to become impaired, and ultimately, the choice to get behind the wheel.

That final decision resulted in the murder of Jamari.

Jamari's life was taken because of preventable, reckless behavior. This was not an accident—it was the direct consequence of conscious, irresponsible actions. Far too many families in Maryland have lost loved ones to impaired driving, tragedies that could have been entirely avoided. The solution is simple: do not drink and drive.

Maryland's current laws regarding vehicular crimes involving impaired drivers fail to reflect the severity of these offenses. They do not fit the crime that was knowingly committed. Jamari's life was priceless to all who knew and loved him, yet under current law, the individual responsible may face a maximum sentence of ten years—and potentially serve only days or a few years with good behavior. This is a slap in the face to victims' families and undermines the value of human life.

While nothing will ever bring Jamari—or the many others before him—back, it is long past time for Maryland to strengthen its laws and hold impaired drivers fully accountable for the devastation they cause.

I urge you to pass SB0066.

Respectfully,
Leslie Everett