

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kaya Zhanna Donaldson, and I am writing in strong support of Mateo's Law, Senate Bill 110 and House Bill 114. I submit this letter not only as a concerned citizen, but as someone whose life was forever altered by the tragic and preventable loss of Mateo Green, a son, a friend, and the person I loved.

I met Mateo in August of 2021 through a chance encounter on Howard University's campus. What began as a happenstance meeting grew into a deep and meaningful relationship. From 2022 through 2024, Mateo and I remained in each other's lives, sometimes romantically and sometimes platonically, but always with care, respect, and love. He was a kind and gentle soul, full of laughter, warmth, and sincerity. Mateo had a way of making people feel seen and safe simply by being himself.

It is devastating beyond words that his life was taken as a result of drunk driving. Even more painful is learning, in the aftermath of his death, that Maryland law does not currently require mandatory impairment testing in all fatal or life threatening motor vehicle accidents. That gap in the law is unacceptable. No family should have to wonder whether the full truth was uncovered when a life is lost.

Mateo's Law addresses this gap by requiring mandatory breath testing for alcohol and blood testing for alcohol, drugs, or controlled dangerous substances for any individual involved in a motor vehicle accident that results in death or life threatening injury, regardless of whether a police officer initially believes impairment is present. This legislation is not about punishment for its own sake. It is about accountability, truth, and justice. It ensures that impairment is not overlooked, evidence is preserved, and families are not left without answers.

I support the provisions of this bill, including comprehensive testing for alcohol and drugs and the continuation of existing protections for medical professionals who perform these tests in good faith. These protections shield medical personnel from civil liability except in cases of gross negligence. Together, these measures are reasonable, necessary, and grounded in public safety. Advocacy organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving have long supported comprehensive impairment testing in serious crashes as an essential step toward accountability and justice for victims and their families.

I offer my wholehearted support to Mateo's mother, Ms. Shirelle Green, and family, whose courage in transforming unimaginable grief into advocacy is extraordinary. I also support this bill for every mother, friend, partner, and family member in the future who deserves justice for their loved one, and for every life that may be protected by closing this gap in the law.

Mateo's life mattered. His story matters. Mateo's Law ensures that his legacy is one of accountability, protection, and change.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to public safety. I respectfully urge a favorable report on Mateo's Law.

Sincerely,
Kaya Zhanna Donaldson

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