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WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM

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February 4, 2026

Members of the Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, Maryland

Re.: Support of "Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law)," House Bill 873 (Delegates Simmons, Lehman and T. Morgan)

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the Maryland nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program's (WRAP) Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and the more than six-million Maryland residents we serve in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking (including having served as project director of both Maryland's Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign and "Maryland Remembers" ceremony), I wanted to formally communicate to you WRAP's unequivocal support for House Bill 873, "Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law)" (Delegates Simmons, Lehman and T. Morgan).

Succinctly, House Bill 873 – in an effort to counter existing Maryland sentencing guidelines for vehicular manslaughter which result in ineffectual, remarkably low imprisonment sentences -- increases the "maximum periods of imprisonment" for persons convicted of vehicular manslaughter including for those convicted of such and having been previously convicted of a number of crimes including driving under the influence of alcohol, driving while impaired by alcohol or driving while impaired by drugs or controlled dangerous substances (Maryland Transportation Section 21-902 [a][b][c] & [d]).

(over)



With over a quarter of Maryland's traffic fatalities involving impaired drivers (27.6%, Maryland Highway Safety Office, 2019-2023 [five-year average]), meaningful deterrents and penalties for persons driving negligently and causing either death or serious injury of another are both paramount and overdue.

As a means of better equating the sentence with the *lethal* crime, WRAP supports House Bill 873 and urges your consideration of again favorably reporting said legislation.

□□□□□

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. I may be directly reached with any questions at either 703-893-0461 or at kurt@wrap.org.

Cordially,



Kurt Gregory Erickson
President