



IMPAIRED
DRIVING
ENDS HERE.

Bryna Clark-Braverman
MADD Maryland Regional Executive Director
Testimony in Support of House Bill 0114
House Judicial Committee
January 28, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of committee, for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 114, also known as Mateo's Law, to help stop impaired driving. My name is Bryna Clark-Braverman and I am Regional Executive Director for the Maryland chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

MADD thanks Delegate Allen for introducing this proposal. For anyone who has not been impacted by a violent crash caused by an impaired driver, it may be surprising to learn that every day in the United States, 37 people are killed and more than 1,000 people are injured in drunk driving crashes. That does not consider the horrific crashes caused by other drugs such as cannabis and opioids.

Since 2019, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drunk driving deaths have increased 4%, resulting in 173 preventable deaths in 2023 in Maryland.

Maryland is not alone in historic increases in drunk driving deaths. Throughout the nation, drunk driving deaths are at a historic high. Lawmakers must do more. I am urging you to support **HB114 – Mateo's Law**, which requires an officer to administer a blood test to anyone involved in a crash that results in death or life-threatening injury.

After a serious crash, time matters. Evidence of impairment fades quickly, and without immediate testing, the truth about what happened can be lost forever. Families are then left not only with unimaginable grief, but with unanswered questions — wondering whether the crash could have been prevented. Mateo's Law will ensure that drunk drivers who cause fatality or serious injury are properly screened for impairment of substances other than alcohol.

Mateo's Law HB114, is a victim-driven proposal that will allow for more justice and ensure accountability by helping law enforcement determine the facts about whether impairment played a role in a crash and protects Marylanders by strengthening our ability to hold impaired drivers accountable. Mr. Chairman and members of committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. We urge your support of Mateo's Law. Thank you.