

Bill Number: HB0114

FAV

Name: Donald Green

Address: 516 Country Ridge Circle, Bel Air, MD, 21015

Email: green2244@verizon.net

Phone: 443 – 413 - 2955

My name is Don Green, and my wife Mary Beth was struck and killed in a crosswalk, crossing the street when she had the right of way, in broad daylight. The friend that was with her was not badly hurt but has suffered from PTSD ever since.

Through all the legal proceedings and resultant trial, what we unfortunately learned was that the court goes out of their way to help protect those that have been accused. We have always wondered if the person who ran her over was drinking or under the influence of drugs. Every time we would ask about why certain things weren't done, we always got the same answer: Because the accused has rights. But, what about the victims? What rights are they given?

One of the most confusing parts of it all was trying to understand why the police report indicated that my wife had been tested for drugs and alcohol, but the driver had not been. Again, we were told that the accused has rights and there must be "reasonable grounds" to test a driver at the scene. This became even more upsetting when we found out the driver had a history of alcohol and drug charges.

In the absence of testing at the scene, there's no proof of impaired driving. This makes the maximum charges much less severe, providing the guilty party with the opportunity to be out of jail sooner and once again pose a risk to the public. Testing at the scene could save lives and prevent others from experiencing the pain and suffering we've experienced.

What further impacts this, is the legalization of cannabis in Maryland. People can easily pick up all forms of it now. Legislation needs to evolve in response to protect the public.

For us, the family and friends of the victim, it's about the truth. What really caused this accident to happen or contributed to it? We just don't understand why all the physical evidence can't be gathered at the time of the accident and a fully informed ruling and sentencing be made by the judge.

We all miss Mary Beth so much and wish that we could have known the whole truth. Unfortunately, with the way the law is written now, we never will.