

Mr. Chair, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to enter my written testimony. My name is Nancy Szewczyk, and I am a concerned citizen, wife, mother of three (3) daughters, and friend of the late Jamari Duckett.

I am testifying today to urge a **FAVORABLE** report of HB0873, Jamari's Law. I came to know & become friends with Jamari as he worked in a local diner my husband and I visit regularly. Jamari had this big infectious smile and zest for life that just made you happy being in his presence. Through our friendship I became invested in him and the bright future he had before him and looked forward to watching him attend college and fulfill his dream of becoming a mechanical engineer. I would see him a few more times after his high school graduation then he was gone. A man who made the decision to drive drunk at a reckless speed of 90mph killed my friend at just 18 years old.

This man received the maximum penalty allowed under MD's current Criminal Law - Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel which is 10 years making him eligible for parole in 2.5. He is already out having served just a fourth of the maximum for taking a life. This maximum penalty is **NOT** commensurate of the severity of the crime that was committed against my friend Jamari. The crime committed against Jamari was not a nonviolent accident, it was egregious. Let me state that again the crime committed against Jamari was **EGREGIOUS** – the conduct of Jamari's killer was that of intentionally committing an act that involves knowingly violating the law – Driving Drunk & Reckless. The maximum penalty for Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel needs to increase so that the punishment in a case like Jamari's fits the crime. Increasing the maximum penalty from 10 to 20 years and 30 for a subsequent conviction would allow prosecutors to seek and request proper punishment and accountability on a case-by-case basis for manslaughter by vehicle particularly cases in which the act is deemed egregious and violent resulting in death nothing short of murder. In addition, it could allow more time for possible rehabilitation of an offender which could in turn could possibly reduce subsequent violations.

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for bearing in mind my testimony today and consideration to pass Jamari's Law is very much appreciated.