

My name is Theadora Quible and I am writing as a victim survivor of a preventable drunk driving crash. I am providing this written testimony in support of HB0873, Jamari's Law, which strengthens penalties for manslaughter while driving under the influence by raising maximum penalties from 10 years to 20 years and subsequent offenses from 15 years to 30 years.

There are dates on the calendar that come around each year most, we remember happily and celebrate. They are joyous occasions. And then there is April 14. For me and my family there is before April 14, 2020, before the crash and after. Before, April 14, 2020 I didn't think twice about running up or down the stairs, stepping off curbs, wearing shorts, or driving a car and trusting that the oncoming cars were going to stay in their lane. That all changed on April 14 when we were hit head on by a drunk driver. I am haunted by the sight of a blue dodge pickup truck driving straight towards me. "That truck is in my lane", I said to my daughter. I had a split-second decision to make about how I was going to protect my child. I attempted to turn the car off the road and get out of the way, but there was a guardrail. Then the sight of my daughter being thrown around from the impact. My hands clenched to the steering wheel bloody from shards of glass. I live with this trauma and the memory of my legs being stuck, unable to move and get out of the car. A good Samaritan coming to my daughter's aid and another reassuring me that help is on the way. A paramedic climbing into the back of my car, holding my hand, asking me for my name. A sheet draped over my head while the fire department worked to free me from the vehicle. My leg was wet, I was bleeding. And then I woke up and was informed I was on a med-flight helicopter along with my daughter on our way to MedStar Washington Hospital. I would later learn that the vehicle impaled my leg in two different places.

6 surgeries, 17 days in the hospital, 8 scars, one 14 inches long running the length of my left thigh to below my knee, 3 months non weight bearing, sliding and scooting from the bed into a wheelchair, 3 months of sponge baths, 4 months of sleeping in a hospital bed in my living room.

Just some of the aftermath of 1 preventable crime.

Open reduction, internal fixation, debridement, tibial nail, wound vac, skin graft, muscle flap, JP drain, bone stimulator, non-union repair, and bone graft. I never knew what any of those words meant or referred to. If you do not know either I hope you never need to know.

My left leg is crooked and deformed. I have difficulty manipulating stairs, curbs and uneven surfaces. I am missing part of my shin. I will say that again. I am missing part of my shin. My left leg was reconstructed. My gait is uneven.

My daughter walked away from this crash physically unharmed, however mentally she has never recovered.

I am bitter, angry, frustrated and sad. The problem with those emotions is that they are not productive to my physical or mental health. I choose to push forward with resilience and

strength and continue to heal and be strong for myself and my family. I stand before you today with unwavering strength because there are too many victims of crashes that did not survive. Victims like Jamari. I am here today to use my voice to advocate for change.

When someone chooses to drive impaired, recklessly, or with gross negligence and takes a life, the harm is no accident to the families left behind. Yet under current law, the consequences often do not reflect the severity of the crime or the devastation it causes. For families like mine, it feels as though our loved ones' lives are treated as less valuable simply because the weapon was a vehicle.

Jamari's Law matters because it:

- Recognizes the seriousness of killing someone through dangerous driving.
- Provides judges with stronger sentencing options that reflect the true impact of these crimes.
- DUI manslaughter is not considered a "violent crime," and offenders serve less than a quarter of their sentence.
- Sends a clear message that Maryland will not tolerate reckless behavior that puts innocent lives at risk.

This bill does not impose mandatory minimums. It simply allows the justice system to hold offenders appropriately accountable when a life is lost. Accountability is not about revenge, it is about protecting others, honoring victims, and ensuring families like mine do not have to endure this same heartbreak.

Please stand with victim families across Maryland and vote YES on HB0873 also known as Jamari's Law.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story and for your service to Maryland.