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March 2, 2026

Delegate Simmons
Lowe House Office Building, Room 152
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for Jamari's Law and Reform of DUI-Related Fatality Laws in Maryland

Dear Delegate Simmons,

I am writing to express my strong and unequivocal support for HB0873, Jamari's Law, and for broader reform of Maryland's approach to DUI-related fatalities.

Jamari's Law addresses a critical failure in our current system: when impaired driving results in death, the law as it is currently written, treats that outcome as a lesser offense, despite the permanent and irreversible harm caused. Reclassifying DUI-related fatalities as crimes and increasing the maximum penalties for vehicular manslaughter sends a clear and necessary message that human life matters, and that impaired driving is not an accident—it is a preventable choice with foreseeable consequences.

Under current Maryland law, the consequences for killing someone while driving impaired falls far short of accountability. Families are left grappling not only with loss, but with a justice system that minimizes the severity of that loss. Jamari's Law is a meaningful step toward correcting that imbalance by strengthening penalties, improving deterrence, and aligning the law with the gravity of the harm caused.

I support Jamari's Law not out of anger or vengeance, but out of a belief that our laws must protect the public and honor victims through accountability. Stronger consequences are not about punishment for its own sake, they are about prevention, consistency, and justice. When penalties are weak or outcomes vary widely, deterrence fails, and lives continue to be put at risk.

On April 6, 2024, my life was forever changed because my son was taken from us by a drunk driving "friend", so I know firsthand that no sentence can undo the harm or bring back a loved one. But I also know that laws shape behavior; that's why we use speed cameras, to correct behaviors. Clear, firm statutes save lives by setting expectations and eliminating ambiguity about the seriousness of impaired driving. In our case, the driver received a sentence of 10 years with all suspended but 18 months; of which he only served

9 months. He was released on Christmas day 2025. A nine-month sentence for taking a life seems unbelievable, doesn't it? Consider losing a friend or family member to this totally preventable crime, and their offender only receive NINE months... where is the justice in that kind of sentence? There is none...

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to support Jamari's Law and to continue advancing reforms that treat DUI-related deaths with the seriousness they deserve. Families should not have to endure the compounded trauma of losing a loved one and then watching the system diminish that loss.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirelle Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirelle Green
Matéo's Mom (SB0110)