

HB0873 Favorable Report

Dear Judiciary Committee:

My name is Arlene Rosenbusch, a Maryland citizen. I am writing to you to urge you to help pass 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.

I am writing from personal experience. My sister, Lynne Rosenbusch and her husband, John Fauerby (both Maryland residents), were killed by a drunk driver in Maryland in 2015. The offender was sentenced to 10 years, but because drunk driving is not considered a violent crime, she only served 1/4 of the time (around 2 years). The rest is probation.

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 favorably on HB0873. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story and for your service to Maryland.

Sincerely,
Ms. Arlene Rosenbusch
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