

**Judiciary Committee**  
Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel - Increased Penalties  
HB 0873 Jamari's Law  
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for Jamari's Law (HB 0873), which would stiffen penalties on drivers convicted of vehicular manslaughter.

My support for this bill extends from my own experience as the husband of Sarah Langenkamp, who was killed bicycling on River Road in 2022.

Her death and its aftermath have opened my eyes to seriousness of the dangers on our roadways and our urgent need for legislative action to help us reduce these numbers. Some 40,000 people are killed on U.S. roads every year, causing, by some estimates over \$340 billion in direct costs to the American people, and some \$1.4 trillion in costs when lost quality of life adjustments are made.

As a person who has faced the loss of a loved one, I can attest that those costs are real and enduring, and yet, even when quantified in dollars, these monetary costs actually understate the enormous toll that gruesome roadways injuries and deaths take on families across America.

Jamari's law focuses on those drivers convicted of killing innocent people due to their gross negligence—in other words, those whose actions demonstrate a severe and reckless disregard for the safety of other people, a violation of the most fundamental responsibility a person takes on when they drive on our roads.

Of course, the bill does not require that judges impose these stiffer penalties when circumstances merit it. They do, however, give our judicial system the flexibility it needs to ensure that extremely reckless and irresponsible drivers causing needless death on our roads are held accountable for the horrors they inflict upon innocent people.

Of course, the message this sends to our community—that driving is a dangerous activity, that we all must drive responsibly, that our society believes that failing to do so deserves punishment—is also critical.

I urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB0873. Thank you for your leadership in protecting all users on Maryland's roadways.

Sincerely,  
Dan Langenkamp