

Endorsement of Maryland HB0873 in Memory of My Friend, Jazz Taylor

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 0873. I submit this letter in memory of my closest friend, Jazz Taylor, whose life was tragically taken due to the reckless actions of a drunk driver.

Jazz was killed while leaving work by a drunk driver traveling in the wrong lane. What should have been a normal day returning home from work turned into an unimaginable tragedy for his family, friends, coworkers, and our community. His death was not an accident — it was the result of a preventable and irresponsible decision.

Jazz was not just a victim. He was a selfless, compassionate, and community-minded individual. He consistently gave back to others and made a meaningful impact on the lives of those around him. At Howard Community College (HCC), he was known for helping others and serving as a positive role model. I also had the honor of working alongside him at CAVA Restaurant, where he carried that same spirit into his work. He was diligent, well-respected, and truly well-liked by everyone who knew him.

Jazz had a special way of spreading kindness wherever he went. He was a loyal friend, a devoted brother, and someone many people looked up to. His life touched more individuals than he probably ever realized. Losing him has left a permanent void in our hearts.

No family should have to endure this kind of pain because someone chose to drive under the influence. I respectfully urge you to support and uphold laws like HB0873 that hold impaired drivers fully accountable and work to prevent future tragedies.

In honor of Jazz's life, I ask that you help strengthen protections and consequences so that fewer families have to experience this devastating loss.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Paul