

Subject: Support SB 672 and HB 749 helping to stop drunk driving

As your constituent, I urge you to support SB 672 by Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and HB 749 by Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, which would require the use of ignition interlocks for 180 days for all first-time convicted drunk drivers who enter Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) agreements.

In Maryland, ignition interlocks are required for all convicted drunk drivers, but too often judges allow first-time convicted drunk drivers to enter a PBJ agreement and avoid the interlock.

Drunk driving is a leading killer on Maryland roadways. In 2019, 130 people died in drunk driving crashes across the state. Increasing the use of interlocks is proven to reduce drunk driving.

SB 672 and HB 749 will help stop repeat offenses and reduce DUI recidivism. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all-offender interlock laws reduce drunk driving recidivism by 67 percent. Recent studies have found that mandatory interlock laws reduce drunk driving deaths by 16 percent.

I urge you to support SB 672 and HB 749 mandating interlocks for PBJ agreements.