



February 23, 2023

The Honorable Will Smith
Chairman, Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chairman, Maryland House Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Smith and Chairman Clippinger:

On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support and swift passage of Senate Bill 528 and House Bill 451 to require drunk drivers arrested for a first offense DUI who are sentenced to probation before judgment (PBJ) to complete 180 days on an ignition interlock device as a condition of their probation. Ignition interlocks are **already** mandatory for people who refuse the BAC test, convicted first offenders, and repeat offenders. This legislation builds on Noah's Law, passed in 2016, in honor of Noah Leotta. Currently, 34 states and the District of Columbia require all offenders to install ignition interlocks. Passage of this legislation would save lives and qualify Maryland for Federal incentive grant funds.

In 2021, more than half (51%) of the 9,291 DUI/DWI offenders in Maryland received PBJs. Drunk drivers are responsible for 1/3 of all of Maryland's traffic fatalities – On average, there are 6,600 impaired driving crashes each year, resulting in nearly 3,000 injuries and 170 tragic and preventable fatalities. In 2022, Maryland's Ignition Interlock Program **prevented 3,650 attempts** to start or operate a vehicle where the driver's blood alcohol concentration was above the legal limit. Nationally, ignition interlocks have stopped over 29 million total attempts to drive drunk over the last 14 years. Ignition interlocks are a cost-effective and proven solution that reduces drunk driving recidivism and helps keep our nation's roads safe for millions of motorists.

- [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—[by up to 70%](#)— among first-time, repeat and high-risk offenders while they are installed.
- An article studying the effects of [ignition interlock laws on fatal crashes between 1982 and 2013](#) found that mandatory laws for all offenders “would have significant public health benefit” and “are more effective at reducing alcohol-involved fatal crashes than laws requiring interlocks for segments of high-risk offenders.”
- Ignition interlocks are **74% more effective in reducing DUI recidivism** than license suspension alone for first offenders during first 182 days after conviction, according to a 2016 study from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Noah's Law is working to reduce repeat DUIs – which proves the point of this legislation. We don't want people to go on to have second and third offenses. This legislation will protect people on the roadways while still allowing drivers with DUIs to continue driving and meeting family and work obligations. If we can be of assistance in your efforts to reduce drunk driving, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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