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**Bob Spanburgh Jr.**  
Executive Director

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**ABATE of Maryland, Inc.**

*Dedicated To The Freedom Of The Road & Responsible Motorcycle Legislation*

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**HB1186**

**Reckless and Negligent Driving - Death of Another - Must-Appear Violation**

**Favorable**

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Robert Spanburgh. I am the Executive State Director of ABATE of Md. I have testified in front of this committee before. I reach out to you today to give a favorable report and vote for HB1186. I have lobbied in favor and testified on behalf of passage of this legislation for many years. Our organization stays actively involved in any legislation involving motorcycles and traffic safety. It is our feeling that this is not exclusively a motorcycle-related bill. We view this legislation as a public safety bill.

Through the years I have discussed this issue with attorneys, law enforcement officers, MVA employees, and hundreds of Maryland citizens. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of so many of these people who lost loved ones in vehicle accidents who were never afforded the privilege to see the other parties involved in these incidents in a court of law. I personally feel it is not my place to judge anyone involved in an accident that takes someone's life or maims someone. I do feel however, that affording the families of the people harmed or killed in these accidents the opportunity of a day in court would be a huge step in the healing process. It is my hope that by mandating a court appearance in these circumstances, drivers would be more mindful of the consequences of operating a motor vehicle in our great state. We respectfully request a favorable report and vote for HB1186. Thank You.

Robert G. Spanburgh Jr.  
Executive Director ABATE of Md.