



January 30, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAVORABLE - HB0028 Pedestrian Fatality Prevention Act of 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Bikemore is writing on behalf of our more than 5,000 engaged constituents and the hundreds of thousands of Baltimoreans who walk, bike, and take transit in support of HB0028.

Larger, heavier vehicles are causing a catastrophic increase in pedestrian fatalities, with deaths rising 80% since 2009 in the United States. This is aligned with vehicles getting longer, wider, taller, and heavier, and consumer trends of buying larger SUVs and Pickups for commuting and not utility uses. Recent IIHS research¹ analyzing federal crash statistics shows a direct link between these larger vehicles and the increase in deadly crashes.

These vehicles also cause disproportionate wear and tear on our roadways, consume more fuel, emit more fumes and tire particulates, and take up more parking space on urban streets with limited on-street parking.

Increasing registration fees to discourage unnecessary purchase of these vehicles and mitigate a slightly larger portion of their massive negative externalities is the least we can do to begin to combat this epidemic of truck bloat leading to pedestrian death.

Bikemore encourages a favorable report on HB0028.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.iihs.org/news/detail/vehicles-with-higher-more-vertical-front-ends-pose-greater-risk-to-pedestrians>