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Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members,

Thank you for your work and for considering public input on current legislation. I am a resident of Prince George's County and am writing to ask that you provide a favorable report for HB0364, which proposes automated camera enforcement at stop signs in Prince George's County. This bill passed the House and requires passage in the Senate to be enacted. Your favorable report is needed to make that happen.

Delegate Healey previously proposed this measure as a State bill because many constituents have complained about stop sign running and other similar traffic violations, and both residents and municipalities have asked to legalize cameras for traffic signals such as stop signs. There is clearly demand and support for this measure in Prince George's county. When I am out running, cycling, walking and driving in Prince George's County, I repeatedly see drivers treat stop signs like yield signs, rolling through them. On several occasions drivers rolled through a stop sign while I was in the crosswalk, resulting in a scary near miss.

Unsafe driving is a continued problem and Prince George's county has the highest traffic fatalities in the State. We need better enforcement to reach Vision Zero and protect our most vulnerable road users, including children, the elderly, those with visual or mobility impairments, cyclists, etc. We need more tools besides the currently allowed speed and red light cameras to ensure safety in all areas (e.g., residential, business, school, etc.) for all road users. Stop sign cameras will provide a critical tool to save lives. This bill is urgently needed to help stop pedestrian crashes like the death of two young children crossing the street at a stop-sign controlled intersection at Riverdale Park Elementary School in the Fall of 2022. Automated enforcement also is more efficient than the current system whereby police sit and wait for people to run a stop sign and removes the risk of traffic stops becoming deadly, reversing an unfortunate trend in our country that has disproportionately affected people of color

Prince George's county is ready for stop sign cameras as DC has them, so many drivers in the county are familiar with them. Harmonizing traffic enforcement approaches across the DC metro area makes sense. DC's cameras also indicate the high rate of failure to stop at stop signs. From Jan-Sept 2022, DC's eight stop sign cameras recorded 120,000 violations, more than 1,650 violations per camera per month.

Fair and efficient enforcement makes our roads safer for all - pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Please provide a favorable report for HB0364 to meet continued demand for such measures, and the safer streets they create.

Thank you,

Melissa A Schweisguth