



**IMPAIRED  
DRIVING  
ENDS HERE.**

**Frank Harris**

**MADD Director of State Government Affairs**

**Testimony in Support of Improving Implementation of the Interlock Law**

**Joint House and Senate Transportation Committee Hearing**

**May 7, 2025**

Thank you Chairman Neilson, Chairman Benninghoff, Chair Ward, and Minority Chair Flynn for allowing Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) to submit written testimony to urge lawmakers to make improvements to the implementation of the current drunk driving ignition interlock law. My name is Frank Harris and I am the Director of State Government Affairs with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Nine years ago, the Pennsylvania General Assembly made an improvement to the ignition interlock law to require these devices for all first-time offenders with a blood alcohol concentration of .10 or greater. The roll-out of this law is not where it should be and we urge lawmakers to take corrective action. MADD is concerned with the bumpy roll-out because we know ignition interlocks work to stop drunk driving, prevent recidivism, and save lives.

MADD supports ignition interlocks as opposed to license suspension alone because, according to the CDC, interlocks reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent. An ignition interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as up to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license. License suspension without the use of an interlock is a mere hope for the best approach to prevent drunk driving.

Unfortunately, drunk driving remains a problem Pennsylvania. In 2023 in Pennsylvania, 321 people were killed in drunk driving crashes representing 27 percent of all traffic crashes.

In 2023, across the country ignition interlocks prevented almost 405,000 attempts to drive with a .08 blood alcohol content or higher. Let me remind you that these are people who have been ordered to use an ignition interlock

because they have already been arrested and charged with drunk driving. And still, they attempted to drive with a .08 BAC.

In Pennsylvania, ignition interlocks prevented 7,000 attempts to drive drunk in 2023. Since 2006 in Pennsylvania, ignition interlocks prevented over 116,000 attempts to drive drunk with a BAC of .08 or greater. Again, imagine if those drivers had not been stopped by technology.

MADD supports an improvement to the ignition interlock law to:

- Simplify the PA DUI Ignition Interlock Program into a single program by creating the Ignition Interlock Driver's License (IIDL).
- Allow almost every individual who is currently under suspension for a DUI conviction to elect to immediately apply for an IIDL.
- Require the IIDL applicant, not the ignition interlock device vendor, to certify to PennDOT that they do not own or have a registered motor vehicle.
- Require PennDOT to have an online portal as an option to be used by a person applying for an IIDL.

MADD urges lawmakers to please take action and improve the implementation of the current ignition interlock law. Thank you for allowing MADD to provide written testimony.

CONTACT:

Frank Harris

MADD Director of State Government Affairs

[Frank.Harris@madd.org](mailto:Frank.Harris@madd.org)

202-688-1194