

Senate Transportation Committee Hearing

Commonwealth of PA
September 21, 2021

RE: Support of SB773 Deana's Law

Chairman Langerholc and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to be here today in support of SB773, or Deana's Law, which will save lives.

My name is Mindy Huddleston and I am the Director of Government and Industry Relations for SCRAM Systems, which is based in Littleton, Colorado. Our company has a full spectrum of monitoring technologies that includes transdermal continuous alcohol monitoring, ignition interlock systems, portable alcohol monitoring, and GPS. We monitor about 130,000 people worldwide each day.

The purpose of Deana's Law is to prevent the unfathomable heartache families like the DeRosas suffer every day due to a PREVENTABLE crime.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates there are nearly 1 million alcohol-impaired driving arrests each year, one-third of which involve repeat offenders, which are a serious public safety concern as they are overrepresented in fatal traffic crashes.

Research tells us that the risk of being involved in an alcohol-related traffic crash increases by approximately 20% with each additional prior DUI conviction.

In 2010, the most precise study in this regard analyzed more than 100 million driver records from 1973 to 2004 in Maryland, and found:

- The odds of a 1st time DUI offender repeating to a 2nd offense (crash or arrest) is 24%.
- The odds of a 2nd time DUI offender repeating to a 3rd offense (crash or arrest) is 36% (50% greater than a 1st time offender).
- The odds of a 3rd time DUI offender repeating to a 4th offense (crash or arrest) is 51% (110% greater than a 1st time offender & 40% greater than a 2nd time offender).¹

¹ Rauch WJ, Zador PL, Ahlin EM, Howard JM, Frissell KC, Duncan GD. Risk of alcohol-impaired driving recidivism among first offenders and multiple offenders. Am J Public Health. 2010;100:919-924.



Repeat DUI offenders are dangerous because they often don't stop drinking and they don't stop driving. Traffic safety experts estimate that 75% of suspended drivers continue to drive.²

As you may know, there are several counties in the Commonwealth that are effectively preventing the carnage caused by repeat DUI offenders. York, Lancaster, and other counties have well-established sobriety monitoring programs that have produced incredible outcomes.

These programs use transdermal continuous alcohol monitoring devices that test for the consumption of alcohol every 30 minutes, 48 times per day. There are NO gaps in testing for alcohol. An offender cannot play the system like they may with point-in-time testing.

Research shows that the use of continuous alcohol monitoring significantly reduces the probability of recidivism among high-risk DUI offenders.

A study by the National Center for State Courts shows that recidivism rates for repeat DUI offenders who wore a continuous alcohol monitoring bracelet for at least 90 days were 50% less than those who were alternatively sentenced. Remarkably, 98% of the offenders did not commit a new offense while wearing a continuous alcohol monitoring bracelet.³

The deterrent power of continuous alcohol monitoring is undisputable. Since most repeat DUI offenders do not have the internal motivation to stay sober, this bracelet reinforces their sobriety 30 minutes at a time. They know, without a doubt, if they drink they will be caught. That certainty of detection is a powerful deterrent and motivator to stay sober. As a result, public safety is enhanced, court orders can be effectively enforced, and the individual's likelihood of long-term recovery is increased.

As a former resident of Dauphin County with lots of family in the area, I encourage you to prevent the carnage of repeat DUI offenders by calendaring and passing SB773 out of the Senate as quickly as possible.

Mindy Huddleston
Director, Government & Industry Relations
Alcohol Monitoring Systems
MHuddleston@SCRAMsystems.com

² Robert Eger III, Ph.D., "Enhanced Analyses of Suspended/Revoked Drivers Related to Crashes," Florida State University, 2011, cited in American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), "Best Practices Guide to Reducing Suspended Drivers," February 2013, <http://www.aamva.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=3723>.

³ Flango V.E. and Cheesman F.L. *Effectiveness of the SCRAM Alcohol Monitoring Device: A Preliminary Test*. Drug Court Review. VI(2): 109-134. Alexandria, VA: National Drug Court Institute, 2009.