



Maryland Student Legislature

November 12, 2006

Michael (Mike) Tiufekchiev
Speaker of the Assembly
Maryland Student Legislature

Mr. Speaker,

With respect to A002-0607, an Act concerning DUI & DWI Laws – Repeat Offenders:

I would like to congratulate the honorable delegate from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland for authoring her very first piece of legislation. However, I regret to inform her as well as the other twenty-two members of the body who voted in favor of increasing and strengthening mandatory penalties for drunk drivers that I shall side with their twenty-one member opposition and veto the legislation.

On principle, I am against dictating to justices how to run their courtrooms and explicitly telling them to ignore their own judgment and all external factors and mitigating circumstances surrounding individual cases. While we all agree that drunk driving is wrong – I cannot agree with this approach to such a serious issue. Justices are selected following rigorous scrutiny by a commission and input from all facets of the legal community and are selected for their ability to use their judgment – let us allow them to use it.

Best regards,

Brian S. Bailey
Governor
2006-07 Academic Year