

September 21, 2023

Dear Washington State legislators and Washington Impaired Driving Advisory Committee,

I have spoken to some of you in the past and intended on participating on the committee as a citizen. I, however, have not been able to attend due to other personal issues.

I would like your committee and the legislators to address the "Zero Tolerance" law.

I am asking that that law be amended to include all drivers regardless of age. Consequences for driving under the influence of substances-period; first time offenders as well as repeat offenders.

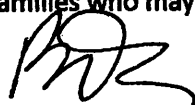
Blow and go or better phrased "Interlock System" thing is a joke, and it is manipulated by the offenders. Eliminate this or monitor in a different manner-maybe have an ankle bracelet attached to this system too and random urinalysis such as daily. Some of these offenders are one-time offenders, however as many of you know by data there are many that are repeat offenders, and they probably have a problem with stopping using substances.

I believe that "Zero Tolerance" would mean to lose driving privileges for one year for first time offenders and repeat offenders for at least 5 years. I also believe that ALL that offend should be required to perform some kind of community service pertaining to "Victims Impact panels" hear the stories of family that have lost family due to their reckless behavior; at least monthly while on probation, also work on work crew to clean up the Hwy way. The cost of their fines should be restitution directly to the family of the killed person, fines that go to a fund due to families lost wages and directly pay for more equipment for the police to use in the field to determine substances and impairment on the spot, the vehicle they are driving regardless of who it belongs to is impounded and actioned off and that money would go to the Impacted victims fund. I know this sounds harsh but driving under the influence NEEDS to be HARSH and addressed seriously to allow people to REALLY think about driving IMPAIED.

As you know the rate of increased Fatalities has grown over the past several years. "Challenge: Despite improvements, impairment continues to be the main factor in 58 percent of fatal crashes in Washington. Over the last five years, polydrug impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes have increased 15 percent per year." "The Target Zero plan represents a bold vision: zero deaths and serious injuries on Washington's roadways by 2030." This is not going to happen without sticker consequences and reminding people that impaired driving KILLS people! "The Traffic Safety Culture chapter describes how we can change behavior by focusing on values and beliefs, as well as reinforcing healthy or positive behaviors. "Behaviors and values will not change for many if there are no consequences.

To conclude: Zero Tolerance-to me means if someone tests positive for any substance while driving, they get a DUII-not any thing less. Regardless of the amount in their system. I would like to challenge all of you to take a serious look at not being passive about driving while impaired. I would like to see the laws change to be Zero tolerance for all drivers and I am not just referring to youth or under aged. It would be in the best interest of those who have been affected by the choices of someone driving under the influence and to the future families who may be affected.

Thank you for your time!



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