



MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

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Dear Senator John Snow:

Technology is changing the way we are able to approach the crime of drunk driving. Right now, North Carolina judges frequently require offenders not to drink alcohol as a condition of probation, but do not have the means to enforce those provisions effectively. To give them these tools, MADD supports NC House Bill 1408 and NC Senate Bill 1290, which specify use of continuous alcohol monitoring technologies as an optional tool in a judge's tool kit against DWI offenses and underage drinking.

These devices attach to the ankle of an offender and monitor alcohol use of that offender. Studies indicate that 70 to 80 percent of drunk driving offenders have an alcohol use problem, so this technology monitors an offender's progress. In fact, the technology can be used to determine who does and does not have a problem with alcohol. These bills allow for an offender to be monitored voluntarily pre-trial and, if abstinence has been maintained, to use their data mitigating evidence, allowing the courts to make better decisions as to what sanctions are most appropriate for which offender.

The second use for this type of technology is to allow it to be used as a condition of probation or parole. Judges should have the latitude to be able to use technology to make sure their orders are being followed. These devices free up valuable probation resources, as the devices are able to do through electronic monitoring.

Finally, the bill allows for those offenders who have permanent driver's license revocations and who can prove their long-term abstinence with CAM to receive interlock-restricted licenses. This allows those who can demonstrate control over alcohol consumption to more safely and more quickly re-enter society.

In sum, we hope these devices can be used not as a punitive measure, but as a guide down the path to reduce recidivism. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you that you support House Bill 1408/Senate Bill 1290.

Thank you,

Craig Lloyd
Mothers Against Drunk Driving of NC (MADD)
State Executive Director