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January 31, 2025

Support SB 8 to improve the BUI law in South Dakota

The Honorable David Wheeler
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges you to support and advance SB 8 by Senator Crabtree to improve the boating under the influence (BUI) law.

SB 8 will help provide justice for victims of BUI crashes. Specifically, SB 8 makes BUI a felony if the offense resulted in the death or seriously bodily harm of another person.

Additionally, SB 8 makes it a felony if a hit and run BUI crash occurs resulting in a death or injury. On the issue of hit and run, MADD believes all such crashes should be treated equally in terms of penalties for drunk and drug-impaired driving crashes penalties.

MADD supports SB 8 because the measure gives law enforcement and prosecutors the tools necessary to hold impaired drivers accountable for their actions. MADD believes driving under the influence is dangerous, deadly and preventable, regardless of the mode of transportation.

MADD urges you to please advance SB 8. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at veronica.hawman@madd.org or 651-523-0802 Ext. 2751. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica Hawman
MADD Minnesota-South Dakota-North Dakota Regional Executive Director