



# Support HB588 Safer Passing of Cyclists

*Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County*  
P.O. Box 208, Arnold, MD 21012 [www.bikeaaa.org](http://www.bikeaaa.org)

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

March 5, 2014

**RE: SUPPORT House Bill 588**

Dear Chairperson Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Committee,

I am a resident of District 33, president of Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County ("BikeAAA"), and an avid Maryland cyclist for over 20 years. On behalf of BikeAAA and it's more than 500 members, I support House Bill 588. This bill strengthens the current 3 foot passing law by eliminating the exception for narrow roads and adding passing "at safe speed". HB588 improves safety and promotes bicycling for both transportation and recreation in four important ways:

1. **Requires a safe 3 foot pass in all circumstances whereas the current law allows an exception in the riskiest situations.**
2. **Reduces the likelihood of a motor vehicle crashing into a cyclist by requiring 3 feet at safe speed**
3. **In the unfortunate event of a crash, *safe speed* reduces the severity of injury**
4. **By improving both the actual and perceived safety of cyclists, it encourages more people to ride bicycles. Studies have shown that increased numbers of cyclists improves safety for all road users as they become a common part of the road use experience.**

Safe bicycling promotes health, reduces traffic, improves the environment and stimulates economic growth. We urge your support for passage of HB 588.

Sincerely,

Jon Korin  
President, Bicycle Advocates for Annapolis & Anne Arundel County  
125 Hillcrest Lane  
Severna Park, MD 21146  
443-685-4103