



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE SENATOR

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MOORE VOTES TO STRENGTHEN LAWS AGAINST RECKLESS DRIVERS

Boston – Senator Michel O. Moore (D-Millbury) recently joined a unanimous vote in the Senate to advance legislation filed in the memory of Robert L. Martinelli to remove an existing loophole in the law that currently prevents police from arresting reckless drivers at the scene of a deadly crash.

Mr. Martinelli, a 19-year-old college sophomore, was killed by a reckless driver in a head-on collision in Worcester in 2002. The driver, who at the time of the accident had six speeding tickets on his record, was allowed to leave the scene and was later cited by mail and arraigned three months after the crash. The driver ultimately received a six-month jail sentence after pleading guilty to misdemeanor vehicular homicide.

The bill would change current law and allow for warrantless arrests in cases where there is probable cause to believe a person has committed motor vehicle homicide or caused serious bodily injury due to the reckless operation of a motor vehicle and has not fled the scene.

Currently, police officers can only make warrantless arrests of drivers who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, are driving without a license or with a suspended or revoked license, flee the scene of accident, among other crimes.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

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