



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2019

Contact: Becky Iannotta or Kristin Davis, MADD
202.600.2031, becky.iannotta@madd.org or kristin.davis@madd.org

Today: MADD Joins Assistant Speaker Ortiz and Traffic Safety Partners to Announce Support of .05 BAC Law

WHAT: Ahead of Memorial Day, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz of Brooklyn and representatives from the National Safety Council, the National Transportation Safety Board and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety will join a press conference to announce support for lowering New York's threshold for alcohol impairment to .05 blood alcohol concentration (BAC). **The family of 12-year-old Andrew McMorris, who was killed by an alleged drunk driver while walking with his Boy Scout Troop on Long Island in September, will also speak.**

WHEN:

Friday, May 24, 2019

Noon

Interviews will be available before and after the event.

WHERE:

250 Broadway

22nd floor, room 2225

WHO:

- Assistant Speaker Felix W. Ortiz of Brooklyn, bill sponsor
- Senator John C. Liu of Queens, bill sponsor
- Helen Witty, MADD National President
- Jennifer Homendy, National Transportation Safety Board Member
- Tara Gill, Senior Director of Advocacy & State Legislation for Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
- Kelly Nantel, Vice President of Advocacy and Communications for the National Safety Council
- John, Alisa and Arianna McMorris, the family of 12-year-old Andrew, killed on Long Island in September while walking with his Boy Scout Troop
- Marcus Kowal of Liam's Life Foundation and father of 15-month-old Liam, killed when a drunk driver hit his stroller in a crosswalk in 2016

WHY: Drunk driving still kills more people on our nation's roads than anything else, including distracted driving. This violent, 100 percent preventable crime is on the rise,

claiming nearly 11,000 lives in 2017 alone – a nine percent increase from 2014. Speaker Ortiz has proposed attacking this crisis by lowering the BAC threshold in New York to .05, a level that, if implemented nationwide, could save nearly 1,800 lives a year.

Currently, New York is one of a handful of states that allows a person who drives with a BAC of .05 to .08 to be charged with a penalty — Driving While Ability Impaired by Alcohol (DWAI). However, instead of being used to charge drivers with a .05 to .08 BAC, it is more widely used to plea down DWI charges.

If passed, New York would become the second state to lower the BAC to .05.

WATCH IT LIVE ON MADD'S FACEBOOK PAGE @madd.official

About Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Founded by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking. With the help of those who want a safer future, MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving® will end this danger on America's roads. Learn more at www.madd.org or by calling 1-877-ASK-MADD.