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## Comment from DRIVE SMART Virginia

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Jan 13, 2026

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Dear Administrator Morrison:

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) is an important tool to those of us working to prevent traffic deaths. For DRIVE SMART Virginia and countless safety partners across the country, this data is foundational—it allows us to understand where, how, and why people are being killed on our roads.

Nationwide data collection makes it possible to identify emerging trends, evaluate what is working, and direct resources where they are needed most. Whether it is rising pedestrian fatalities, increases in impaired driving, or any other road safety issue, FARS helps us see the full picture and respond with evidence-based solutions that save lives.

DRIVE SMART Virginia urges NHTSA to prioritize this critical resource and ensure its continued and stable funding. Without FARS, the ability of states, communities, and safety organizations to address the roadway safety crisis would be severely limited.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Pettway  
Executive Director  
DRIVE SMART Virginia

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