

To the Members of the Montgomery County Council

I was pleased to read of the efforts led by Evan Glass to ban right turns on red in areas where such turns endanger pedestrians and to lengthen the allowed crossing times at some intersections.

Over a year ago, my husband suffered a massive stroke and is paralyzed. He is living at Sunrise Bethesda on Battery Lane. Everyday, weather permitting, I take him out for a long walk. The stimulation of walking past the shops and restaurants is invaluable. At some intersections, I barely get the wheelchair into the crosswalk before the countdown to finish crossing begins. We have almost been hit several times by drivers turning right on red when our walk sign is on.

Another intersection that poses real danger is the one of Woodmont Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue just past NIH. Drivers coming south on Route 355, where the speed limit is 35, have a right turn lane without any traffic control onto Woodmont, where the speed is 30. There is a small median between lanes on Woodmont. While traffic on the south side of this intersection is controlled by a light, traffic on the north side is not. So pedestrians who have a walk sign are in danger from those cars coming down 355 at 35 mph and turning right without a need to stop. I try to avoid that intersection when I am out walking, but I have seen so many pedestrians almost hit by drivers not expecting anyone in the crosswalk.