

Janet Carpenter – Testimony for Sophie Marie Kerrigan

My name is Janet Carpenter and I am here today for my beautiful daughter, Sophie. I am asking you to please consider and adopt Sophie's Law so that when the next juvenile kills or causes bodily harm to someone who is in their vehicle, they would be tested for drugs or alcohol within the hour. If testing proves positive, then they must serve jail time. I know other states are already practicing a Law like Sophie's. My family and I pray that Sophie did not die in vain, but that her death is able to make a change to protect others.

On November 4th 2012 at 2:30am, while out of town, my husband and I received the most devastating and horrific call a parent can receive. Our son was on the other end of the phone crying and hyperventilating that his sister was killed in a car crash. Sophie's gone... forever! She's been killed.

Our daughter Lucy was still in school at OSU and was called by someone at the morgue in the middle of the night hearing the words, YOUR SISTER HAS BEEN KILLED, you might want to come home! Yes... just as cold as it sounds and heart wrenching.

We flew home immediately, distraught and completely in shock. The detective and police came into our home to confirm the fact that our Sophie was gone and what had happened.

I sat in complete amazement as I heard the words come out of the detective's mouth... THERE WAS NO PROBABLE CAUSE. No Probable Cause????????????? Upon their arrival at the scene, they said they saw marijuana paraphernalia by the driver's feet AND he had admitted to smoking pot earlier that day. There were 3 broken, bloodied girls dead in the back seat. NO PROBABLE CAUSE? Ironically, because of no ramifications to the individual who killed my child and two others that night, he has gone on to be in the news on more than one occasion for driving without a license, driving intoxicated, public intoxication, and on and on.