

Chairman Green and members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee... my name is Cathy Richeson and I am here to testify in support of House Bill 95. I am honored that I have been called upon to speak on behalf of our son Captain Nathan Douglas Richeson, whom was killed in a selfish and senseless act called distracted driving.

Nathan and his wife Alyssa were on their way to celebrate their second wedding anniversary when they had a flat tire on Interstate 77 just outside Cambridge, Ohio. Nathan was killed as he was completing this task on August 29 2014 @ 1540, by an individual whom was speeding, driving recklessly, found to have marijuana metabolite above the legal limit in her blood stream and texting two people at one time-one of whom was her mother. The person who struck and killed Nathan was sentenced April 29, 2016 at the Guernsey County courthouse, with Judge David Ellwood presiding. To the best of my understanding, she has been ordered to complete 6 months at the Eastern Ohio Correction Center and after her release will be on probation for three years. Her license has been suspended for 99 years.

Justice has not been served.

I am ashamed of our justice system, as you should be as well. The laws set to provide safety and security to our law abiding citizens is in sad disrepair, in that we do not have mandatory laws to address crimes such as distracted driving. My hope is that Nathan's death will not be in vain, but will be seen rather as a ray of HOPE that sets a strong precedent to change the laws that govern our judges and prosecuting attorneys.

Nathan was a son, a brother, devoted to his family and friends and a loving and devoted husband. Nathan served his country with honor. Show him the honor he so deserves, and with strength and courage move forward in support of House Bill 95.

Stop this madness! Takes a strong step forward and hold people responsible for their actions, as you would your own children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 95.

Sincerely,

Cathy Richeson

ADDENDUM: As of 3-1-17 the person whom chose to drive distracted and killed Nathan has broken her probation and is presently in jail without bond, awaiting a revocation hearing. It is important to take note that without stricter laws in place -NOW- reckless and irresponsible behavior will prevail!

I recall a quote by Benjamin Franklin: "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are".

The time is now to take a deep breath, take a step forward and move towards change and a safer world for those whom we hold dearest.