

Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee

December 13, 2017

HB 293 Proponent Testimony

Caitlyne Spees: Allen East High School student

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Caitlyne. I'm a student at Allen East High School and a teenage driver.

When I first learned of this bill, I was skeptical. This is something new that not everyone is going to immediately accept and I understand that. But if there is anything I will fight someone over, it is the safety of the people around me.

A lot of my friends think that they are ready to drive, a lot of them are younger than me which is why they are just now learning to drive. When I was learning to drive I thought I was ready too. I took all of the classes, drove with my parents and the instructor, took my tests and passed my maneuverability. That sounds like it's enough right?

Don't get me wrong this isn't me saying I got my license and then a week later ran myself into a ditch, it's not that serious, well at least my story isn't. I was ready, a few days after I got my license I drove out of the driveway by myself for the first time, it

was a Saturday morning, I was only driving 2 miles to my boyfriend's house. Yet, I was still shaking making my way down the road.

My birthday is in October, so I took my class in June and drove in September. I never had the experience of learning how to drive in the snow with an instructor. Snow didn't seem like a big deal. It was in January after an away basketball game where I was cheering when on the way home the temperature dropped a large amount after it had sprinkled so the road was iced over. I was inexperienced with this type of weather so my mom came to the school and my dad and Mom got in the car with me and had me spin out in the parking lot so I would know how to correct myself and then we were on our way, going 15 down our back roads. Eventually getting my friend home then making my way back to my house.

If I had had a year of practice I would have been able to drive in the snow and would have experience before I went and drove by myself. I was neither ready to drive by myself or prepared for all of the different weather conditions. This bill would help with experience and prevent accidents due to lack of experience in different weather conditions.

Thank you for your time today. I'm happy to answer any questions.