

Hello Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee. I am grateful for this opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Naomi Admasu and I attend Northmont High School.

I stand here today in favor of this bill, as a 17 year old high school student myself, because I truly do believe it will have an impact on the lives of those younger than me and would have benefited me before I received my license, if this bill were to have existed then.

I received my learners permit in April, and my license a couple weeks after my birthday in October as most eager young drivers do. That being said, I had never practiced driving in the winter snow and ice, though I passed my test with flying colors in the fall. Although driving in the summer and fall seasons seemed to be enough at the time, it surely was not.

There was one day in particular, the winter after receiving my license, where my father was driving in inches of snow, and the car began to drift and slide into the other lane. He instinctively knew what to do to regain control of the car and maneuver us back into safety. However, I can honestly say that if I were driving by myself, I would not have known what to do, nor would I have felt comfortable in that situation due to my lack of experience.

If I had a full year of practice, which would have included driving in the unfamiliar winter weather conditions, my level of comfort as well as that of my parents, would have been very different. I would have had the opportunity to learn under the guidance and wisdom of my parents and instructor and known what to do if I were to ever lose control of the car by myself. This is why, as a teen myself, I believe this bill has the potential to save lives and keep every driver safer on the roads.

Thank you for your time. I am willing and happy to answer any questions you may have.