

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair Greenspan, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee. My name is Emily Frantz. I am a junior at Northmont High School, and a teen driver.

Before I start, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today. As a current high school student, I personally believe the safety of young people, especially my peers, is an issue of utmost importance. Too many young lives are lost due to inexperienced drivers.

Though I already have my license, House Bill 293 is extremely important to me and my family. As the oldest of three, I want nothing more than to protect my younger sisters at all costs. In the case of my 13 year old sister especially, I fear that if House Bill 293 does not pass, she will be sent out on the roads unprepared.

Being born in September, under the current laws, my sister would get her learner's permit in March, and her license in September. This means she would experience practically no driving on ice and snow. As her older sister, the one who is supposed to look out for her, there is no way I would feel comfortable watching her pull out on icy roads, alone, with no experience.

Even for myself, I would have felt more confident driving if I had been given a year's worth of practice and instruction. Last winter was nothing compared to this current season, and even though I have been driving for

months without a crash, there have been multiple times in the past few snowy weeks that I have been scared to drive.

Personally, I had my temporary license from September to March, a season in my life that didn't require me to be out late very often. This made it difficult for me to practice driving in the dark, since my parents didn't often want to go out driving when there was no reason to. If a law had been in place requiring me to have an extra six months of practice, I would have had many more opportunities to drive at night, and would ultimately be more comfortable and confident in myself and my driving today.

This bill would help my peers, my friends, and my sisters be more prepared for driving independently, and I believe it will save many lives in the state of Ohio. Thank you for your time, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.