

Emily Ludwig
House Bill 51

Good afternoon Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Emily Ludwig I would like to start by saying, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about House Bill 51, the centerline rumble strips legislation.

On April 12th 2012 at 5:30 PM, on Rt 7 right above Rogers Ohio going north bound, my sister Amanda [28] was involved in a head on collision. The accident occurred due to the other driver going left of center and crashing directly into my sister, her two children, and their dog. Due to my sister swerving away from the driver, she was able to save her two children [Kylee (7) and Bryce (2)]. Unfortunately my sister was killed on impact, along with their dog. My niece suffered a broken femur, strained ligaments, a broken wrist, along with many cuts on her forehead from glass. My nephew miraculously made it out with only a few bumps and bruises.

Then just shy of 2 years later, on January 19th 2014 at 11:00 AM, my sister Meghann; her husband Jamie; their children; his daughter; and her two friends loaded up to go to take the other two home. They were also in a head on collision due to another driver going left of center. The collision occurred on StRt 518 right outside of Gavers. Both, Meghann [27] and Jamie [39] were killed on impact. Along with them, one of the little girls who rode back with them was ejected and killed, Addisyn Benzel [11]. My niece Savannah [6] had the worst injuries, she is now paralyzed from the waist down, they were not even sure if she would make it to the hospital that day. Chayse [4] along with his sister was taken to the hospital immediately, they were unsure if he would make it to the hospital, ended up having three brain hemorrhages. Brody [2], made it out with a buckle fracture on his femur and a 3 inch laceration on his forehead. Payslee [9 months], had a broken femur. McKenna [10] had a fractured pelvis. And her other friend made it out with only bumps and bruises.

Not only our family was affected on those days. Ten children lost parents on those days. Parents lost a child. Children lost a friend. My parents lost children. I lost my sisters. I'm sure the ones who caused the accidents lives will forever be changed. Their families lives will forever be changed. They were normal everyday people, they had loving families, children, husbands, parents, siblings, and friends.

Just a few weeks ago, another head on collision occurred on Rt 7. The driver of the Chevrolet Cruze traveled left of center and collided with a Ford F-150. Neither of the drivers were fatally injured, but that is something that will forever affect your life. All it takes is one second of distracted driving to end someone's life.

You put your child in the car after teaching them how to drive safely, you hope that they are cautious and stay safe. What you now have to worry about is other people on the road. With today's technology it is incredibly easy to become distracted while driving, all it takes is one time looking down at your phone or turning around to check on your child and you could be on the other side of the road changing yours and many others lives for forever. Center line rumble strips

would add an extra preventative to protect your children, many other people and lessen the crash rates.

Had there been center line rumble strips back when these crashes happened so many lives may have been different. Rumble strips have been proven successful on the sides of the roads. Many states have center line rumble strips down the center of dangerous roads. They help alert you when you are beginning to leave your lane. Having them on the side of the road is great to keep people from potentially hurting themselves. So it makes sense to have one down the center of the roads to keep you from potentially hurting someone else along with yourself. This bill means so much to me because I want to help to prevent anyone else from going through what my family did. If you approve this bill, you're not only choosing safety for everyone today but the children of tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and for your service. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.