

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Reynolds, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Teresa Wright. I am the mother of Olivia Sue Wright and would like to thank you for allowing me to share my testimony in support of House Bill 37 - Liv's Law.

1534 days.

That is the number of days since my daughter, Olivia Sue Wright, was killed by a drunk driver.

Liv was an extraordinary young woman with a heart for helping others. She started a home bakery to fund mission trips, fed the homeless, and brought joy to nursing home residents. She was a passionate advocate for mental health and a caregiver for special needs children. She had dreams of becoming a special education teacher and owning her own bakery and coffee shop. She was not just my daughter—she was my best friend.

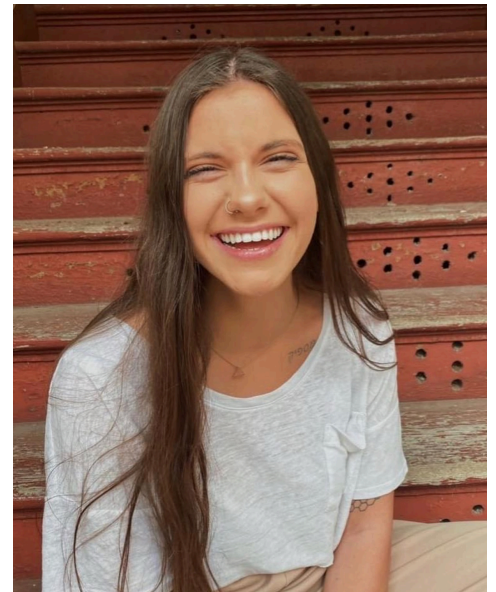
The grief my family endures is unimaginable—a wound that will never fully heal. But through this pain, we are determined to make a difference. Losing Liv to a senseless act has forever changed us, but it has also driven us to fight for reform so that no other family has to endure what we have.

I come before you today not just as a grieving mother, but as a mother determined to save lives in honor of my daughter and all those who have suffered the devastating loss caused by drunk driving.

On September 29, 2020, all of her promises, all of her dreams, and all of the light she brought to the world were stolen in a single, preventable moment. Liv was struck and killed by a drunk driver who was almost three times over the legal limit. Liv was only 22 years old—a vibrant, compassionate, and driven young woman with her whole life ahead of her.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the drunk driver's recklessness, after enduring 13 emotionally draining court hearings, our family was devastated to learn that the drunk driver would serve just five years in prison. Five years—a sentence that felt like an insult compared to the lifelong loss we now bare.

This experience left us feeling defeated, but it also lit a fire within us to fight for change. We realized how urgently we need stronger laws to ensure justice for



victims and accountability for offenders, while also working to prevent tragedies like this from happening to other families.

To honor Liv's legacy, we have worked tirelessly alongside Representative Mark Johnson, Representative Kevin Miller, and many other leaders who have led and stood with us in supporting Liv's Law . This bill represents hope - hope for saving lives and ensuring that offenders face consequences that reflect the gravity of their actions. Sharing Liv's story over these past four years has been deeply painful, but it has been necessary to serve as Liv's voice and drive the call for change. Liv's Law represents a vital opportunity to create meaningful reform, and I urge you to pass Liv's Law in Liv's memory and for the countless others who have lost their lives to drunk driving. By supporting this bill, we can save lives and spare families from the devastation our family continues to endure. I would like to ensure no other parent is left counting the days since they lost someone they love.

Thank you.