

Deputy John A. Loney
Clark County Sheriff's Office
Tecumseh Local Schools

Chairman Baldrige, Vice Chairman McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 720.

I come to you today to speak to you on behalf of Deputy Matthew Yates and his family. Please allow me a few minutes to tell you about this incredible man, husband, father, son, deputy, and friend. Deputy Yates proudly served the citizens of Clark County for over 15 years. Deputy Yates was a dedicated husband to his wife Tracy, father to his sons Anthony and Andrew, and his daughter AKaylehana. Not only was he a dedicated family man, he was a dedicated Deputy Sheriff. Deputy Yates followed in his father Eugene Yates' footsteps, who was also a Deputy Sheriff for Clark County. He served in the jail division, road patrol, and was a member of the Special Response Team. Deputy Yates could be counted on for any assignment he was given while serving in these divisions.

I have known Deputy Yates my whole life, as our fathers worked together at the Sheriff's Office, and I had the pleasure of working with him his whole career and calling him my friend. Any time I was with Matt on a call, I always knew that I'd be safe because he was there with me. Any other deputy would say the same thing also, and that you felt a little tougher when Matt Yates was around. He would hold his shift together and when an issue would arise between deputies, he would make sure it was settled before leaving shift.

I can't tell you enough the tremendous loss not only his family, friends, and co-workers feel, but the community as well. He truly was the greatest man you could've ever met.

State Route 40, or East National Road, that runs through Clark County is a major artery through the heart of Clark County. There is no telling how many times Deputy Yates traveled this road to assist and provide help to the citizens of Clark County on a daily basis. This road is the road he traveled to take his last call on July 24 of this year. Deputy Yates made the ultimate sacrifice you could ever make by laying his life down in an attempt to save someone he never met, but also protected the other deputies he was with there that day. Passage of this bill will forever honor the sacrifice and service Deputy Yates made to Clark County, as he shall never be forgotten.

I would like to again thank Chairman Baldrige and the committee for the opportunity to testify today, and I would welcome any questions you may have at this time.