Emily Ludwig

House Bill 51

Good afternoon Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House 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.

Rumble strips have been proven successful on the sides of the 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. I would like to tell you a little about my past and explain why this bill is so near and dear to my heart.

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 she was killed on impact, along with their dog. My niece suffered substantial injuries, and my nephew miraculously made it out with only a few bumps and bruises.

Then, 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. -I would like to put as a side note ; They were originally taking two cars, but had difficulty with the other car that morning. I am aware they had too many people in the car.- 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 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. 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.

No matter what you do in your car, you should be safe as long as you stay on your side of the road. I understand that in todays day and age with technology and distractions that’s not always true. So with rumble strips down the center of roads this would add an extra preventative to lessen the crash rates.

Had there been center line rumble strips back when these crashes happened so many lives may have been different. 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.