**Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee**

**April 30, 2019**

**HB 106 Proponent Testimony**

**Charity Wallace**

Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee; My name is Charity Wallace. Troopers walked into my work on January 24, 2018 to tell me my 15-year-old daughter Mykaela Fellure died as the back seat passenger in a car crash.  Mykaela had the biggest spark of life and light in her. She was a straight A student and loved music and track and going to church and concerts. She made everyone feel like they were special and loved and she would regularly go out of her way to do special things for others. She had an amazing future ahead. Last January 24 she was going home from school to her friend Lexi's house, and Lexi's brother Jake was driving. He was 16 and had only been driving for 3 months at the time. It was lightly snowing that day, and my Life360 app which tracked the drive, said that his top speed of their trip was 75 miles per hour. The roads were all back roads with a top legal speed of 45mph from the school to his house. He lost control around a curve and the guardrail catapulted his soft top Jeep into the air where it severed a telephone pole, hit a tree and turned on its top on an embankment. Jake and Mykaela died on impact and Lexi was taken to the hospital but didn't suffer any major injuries.

I obviously want improved driving protections for new drivers, but I know before this happened, I would have been annoyed at the inconveniences of waiting longer for my teen to drive, etc. I want anyone thinking that way to put themselves in my shoes. Imagine seeing your son, your daughter for the first time after you've heard the news of their fatal car crash. They're lying in a casket and the funeral home staff has done their best to clean up their wounds and wrap their head. They're still so beautiful. This can't be real. But it is. Your heart is broken in a million pieces and you don't know how you or anyone else in your family will go on.  On that side of the crash, wouldn't you want to do anything in your power to prevent it? You have a chance right now by passing HB 106. Don't let inconvenience, or not making waves, or keeping the status quo influence your decision. May that decision instead be based on saving lives and preventing the horrible pain my family has gone through for others. May the life of my precious daughter and countless other's not be lost in vain.

Thank you for your time today and consideration. I’m happy to answer any questions.