

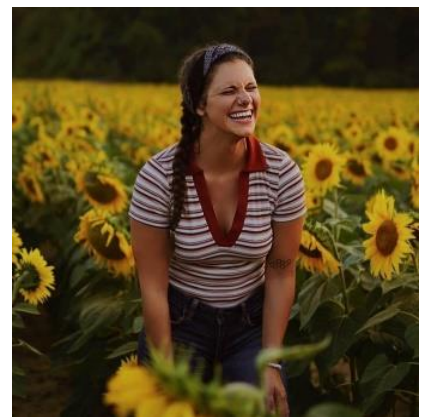
I am Teresa Wright, the mother of Olivia Wright, and we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 37 – Liv's Law. Liv was attending Ohio University, where she was majoring in Early Childhood Development with a concentration in Special Needs Education. This became a love for her and allowed her an opportunity to be a caregiver for special needs children. Liv also was an entrepreneur and owned and operated Liv's Sweet Treats. With her business she would use her proceeds to assemble care packages and delivered them to the homeless throughout the inner city of Columbus and making flower bouquets for Nursing Homes. She started a suicide-prevention hotline, called Phone-a-Friend, and she wrote a blog, "Life with Liv," where she inspired many with her testimony of Faith and Hope. Liv devoted her life to being a servant to others.



Liv fiercely loved her family and friends, and she practiced that love every day. She made it her priority to communicate her love to every single person in her life. To Liv, this meant impromptu coffee dates, hours of card games, campfires and s'mores, dancing and singing with cousins, and making sure she always said the words, "I love you."

It was a joy to see Liv develop into a beautiful young lady. I would have never thought my little momma's girl would become so independent and find so many purposes to impact others.

During her high school years our relationship became even closer as she looked for ways to support her love for outreach. I encouraged her to bake and taught her what I knew. Liv ended up starting her own home bakery with me as her sous chef. We spent many all-nighters fulfilling orders, making deliveries, and learning new recipes, which became a passion that we both loved doing together. In her room a few months after she was killed, I found a letter she wrote to her future self. She shared her dream of someday owning a bakery with me.



We would also serve coffee, of course, as that was one of her first loves. Everything Liv sought out to do she did it with such passion and love. You could not help but love being around her, and her infectious smile. Her smile was so, so big and beautiful.

The phrase 'you don't know what you have until it's gone' has been on my mind since we lost her. I knew Liv was that person that was always there for me no matter what, but in all my years I never thought she would be gone so soon in such a tragic way. Our lives have turned upside down since we have lost her. Liv wasn't a person that would just call every now and then. She called several times a day. I still cling to the memories of her voice on the other end of the phone call. She wanted to know how my day was. She checked in on me, and I checked in on her. She did this daily. I do not have that now. My days are quiet, and her voice is no longer, and her absence has caused a hole in my heart that will never heal.



I wanted you to know a little bit about my daughter as this loss has forever changed our family. Her absence has broken us, and it was all due to a senseless act of drinking and driving. Since this happened, I have lost all trust in many people and the justice system. I have such a fear of driving that I no longer feel safe to drive. The memory of the day Liv was killed is haunting but then we had to endure 13 months of hearings, continuances and then the

sentencing. We did not miss one as we wanted to be present for Liv. Liv believed in justice. During that 13 months we learned that the offender had the right to be home and not be accountable when he was clearly drunk and almost three times the limit that night. We learned in a very hard way how law reform is desperately needed for those that continue to make the same decision and take innocent lives. With this change in House Bill 37- Liv's Law, It will keep the irresponsible drivers off our roads and prevent them from killing another innocent life. This is our plea in memory of Liv to strengthen our OVI laws, so no other family has to lose a loved one and experience our story.

