

Written Testimony of Tom McKnight  
In support of SB870  
February 27, 2020

On April 27, 2008 my life along with many others was forever changed. This is the day that my dear friend John Hill was driving home from work and on his way to get dinner for himself and his son, Thomas. That dinner would never be eaten.

You see on that same night another man had been drinking at the local hangout, where he had too much to drink and his friends gave him a ride home. Smart thing to do most would think, but see here is where our lives collide. After he was taken home, so he would not have to drive, he decided he needed to go to the store for some cigarettes. This man got in a truck headed out of town on, the wrong way, toward Rt. 404, he then made a left hand turn on Rt. 404, again the wrong way. A short distance later he hit my dear friend John in the driver's door, killing him instantly.

Most would be devastated by this alone, but what most do not understand is with HB952, this could have been prevented. This was the offenders 4<sup>th</sup> conviction. Had he been on an interlock he would not have been able to start his car and kill my friend John, he would not have been able to continue to make the choice to drink and drive and carelessly put our family and yours at risk, and ultimately take Johns life.

He was found guilty, sentenced to 10 years in prison with five of them suspended. Sadly after a short 2.5 years he was released on parole.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the committee, I beg you to pass SB870. Please don't let another family suffer the same fate as the Hill family and friends.