

March 4, 2020

Jeanne Zdon Carfine
718 Placidville Way; Eldersburg, MD 21784
410-207-0921

Re: Vote for HB1186, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must Appear Violation:

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to urge you to vote in favor of HB1186, Reckless and Negligent Driving-Death of Another – Must Appear Violation.

On July 5, 2019, my brother and sister in law were involved in a catastrophic motorcycle accident. They were out on a causal motorcycle ride, enjoying the hot Summer afternoon, when the motorcycle they were riding was struck head on by a careless car driver who crossed the yellow line on Rt. 1 in Conowingo, MD. They were flown to different trauma centers. My brother, Thomas Zdon, had his left arm above the elbow amputated, and his left leg above the knee amputated. He survived multiple injuries and surgeries and is attempting to rehabilitate to regain independence. He is in pain every day. The path of his life has completely changed. My beautiful sister in law, Sherry Zdon, suffered injuries that were too severe for her to survive, and she passed away as a result on July 8, 2019. We miss her every day. Everyone she knew misses her every day. This has been a nightmare for my brother and the combined families.

There was also another motorcycle, carrying Sherry's brother and a friend, that was struck as a result of the car driver's carelessness. They were rushed to trauma centers, as well, and continue to recover from injuries that are life altering.

Medevac helicopters, ambulances, extensive shock trauma stays, multiple surgeries, permanent physical injuries, loss of limbs, wheel chairs, prosthetic devices, insurance appeals, work disability, physical rehabilitation, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social security disability, expensive home modifications, ambulatory care, revision surgeries, Medicare, legal consultations, lawyer's fees, insurance premiums...our heads are spinning with things we never thought we would have to know anything about!

The initial police report has only basic information. We are still waiting for a further detailed crash reconstruction report. We have many questions and still no answers. We have not met or spoken to the party at fault. My brother retained a lawyer and has spoken to the insurance claims representatives, but we would like to know more. My brother deserves to know more.

Passing this bill would give my brother and our families the opportunity to meet the party at fault in a controlled environment. It would allow my brother to be face to face with the person who has caused him so much physical and emotional pain. I do not wish this man ill will, I do not want to confront him in an aggressive way, I do not expect an apology, I do not want to form any type of relationship. I want the man to see the result of his carelessness. I want the man who walked away, uninjured, from this catastrophic accident to have a visual of the physical and emotional damage he caused my brother. I want him to look my brother in the eye, knowing he killed his wife. I want him to have to appear in court.

It is not fair to cause such damage and remain anonymous to the victims who have lost everything. There is no justice in that.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote for HB1186

Sincerely,

Jeanne Zdon Carfine