

1 February, 2021

Julie Z. Sturek

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Re: Vote for/ in favor of passing: 2021 – HB 668, Reckless and Negligent Driving – Sherry’s and Ryan’s Law - 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 passing **HB 668**, Reckless and Negligent Driving- Sherry’s and Ryan’s Law - Death of Another – Must Appear Violation.

On 5 July, 2019 in Conowingo, MD, my brother, Thomas D. Zdon, was involved in a motorcycle accident that resulted in the death of his wife, Sherry Zdon, and the loss of his left arm (above the elbow) and left leg (above the knee). He was hit dead on by an oncoming vehicle while out for a drive in the late afternoon near the Conowingo Dam. My brother and his wife were flown to separate hospitals where his wife later died. My brother underwent numerous surgeries and amputations. Two passengers riding another single motorcycle were critically injured, and spent many days in hospitals as well.

We don’t have many details of the accident. My brother has no memory of that day. It was difficult to receive a copy of the initial police report, but I finally picked one up at the station. The 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. It has been over a year and half since the accident, and we still have not heard from the Driver of the car that hit them. We have not even received a sympathy card or note of condolences in the mail.

Passing this bill would give my family the opportunity to meet the party at fault. It would allow the guilty party to be put into a court of law to receive some sort of judgement. I’d like to meet them to ask questions and I’d like them to meet my brother and see how our lives have drastically changed since that fatal day. Meeting them would possibly bring me and my family some sort of closure. My family and I are not vengeful people. But it pains us to think that someone that was responsible for killing someone, albeit an accident might never have to go to court or be sentenced to at least a fine or traffic ticket. Meeting and facing the person whom they hurt seems only sensible and fair.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote in favor of passing HB 668

Sincerely,

Julie Zdon Sturek

Member: Abate of Maryland, Inc