

Megan Moore

In favor of SB26 Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel - Increased Penalties (Jamari's Law)

January 22, 2024

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Moore, and I am writing to express my support for SB26, also known as Jamari's Law. I share my testimony with the hope that you will vote to advance this bill to become law.

My life was forever changed on June 5, 2021, when my son Noah was killed in a car crash caused by an impaired and reckless driver. This is my reality every moment of every day.

While I struggled to cope with my new existence, I counted on our justice system to provide consequences for the driver who chose to get behind the wheel that night.

The driver accepted a plea deal. He pleaded guilty to negligent manslaughter-Auto/Boat, etc. and Driving a Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol Per Se. He received a jail term of 10 years, with all but 18 months suspended for the manslaughter charge while the DUI ran concurrently with the entire sentence suspended.

The driver served **9 months and 1 week.**

Noah, my Leap Day baby was just 21 years old when he was so tragically killed. I struggle to find the words to perfectly describe him, as I will not be able to truly capture his spirit, his zest for life, his charm and his unwavering loyalty and dedication to family and friends.

It continues to take my breath away that he is really gone.

I acknowledge the driver did not intend to kill Noah, but he did choose to drive recklessly and impaired which resulted in Noah's death. There must be consequences for such careless decisions to deter others. We need laws that instill fear of the repercussions for actions that lead to such devastating loss.

I implore you to support SB26. Strengthening these penalties is crucial in promoting accountability and deterring actions that lead to irrevocable loss.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to justice.

Sincerely,
Megan Moore