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Hello Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and committee members, I am here to ask for your favorable report on HB 134 Motor Vehicles - School Buses - Seat Belts

I first testified in support of this bill last year when it passed the House. After I testified, many circumstances have changed that reinforce the urgent need for seatbelts on school bus.

I am now a middle school student who rides the school bus daily from my home in Bethesda to my campus in Washington, D.C. I experienced two separate incidents where I not only violently hit my head against the back of the seat, but also fell off entirely onto the floor.

There was a recent incident in Howard County involved a school bus rollover, and in August 2024, a tragic accident in Texas claimed the life of a preschooler. These events are heartbreaking reminders that the safety of us kids cannot be compromised. These personal experiences make it clear to me that our current system is failing to protect children during transit.

I am not testifying solely for my own safety. I am speaking out for every school bus rider—present and future. We deserve to ride in buses that are equipped with the necessary safety features to protect us. We need to REQUIRE schools to purchase school buses with seatbelts.

In conclusion, I urge you to provide a favorable report on this bill. Thank you for your attention and commitment to the safety of every child in our schools.