

My name is Gerald A. Eedes. I'm a family member of Kendra Gibson and family friend of the Green family (Mateo Green).

The allowance of severely drunk drivers to not be held immediately held accountable when causing tragedies due to clear gross negligence and lack of civil liability when driving under the influence of alcohol needs to be instantly addressed. My friend Mateo Green (April 18 2024) and less than two weeks later my cousin Kendra Gibson (May 6 2024), were both taken from us due to the actions that their vehicle operators showed. In both cases there were signs that the occupants of the vehicle vehemently suggested to the operator(s) that they should have slowed down or released them from the vehicle. In both cases this is what their respective operators ignored. Our two families are now going through the motions in long drawn-out processes to ensure that they are held accountable. This should not be the case when evidence that is apparent and available is not secured at the scene.

The Senate bill 565 "Mateo's law" will allow our civil servants to quickly obtain evidence of negligence when a motor vehicle operator is involved in a fatality or causes serious injury. The immediate testing during these circumstances is a necessity to have the evidence to fight these cases efficiently in court. Officers should immediately be able to request this form of evidence on the scene or at a medical facility as soon as death or dismemberment is apparent.