

Testimony of
Kathy Mugford

Transportation Committee
Public Hearing – March 5, 2008

S.B. 500 – An Act Concerning Highway Work Zone Safety

Good afternoon Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Kathy Mugford. My husband, Robert Mugford, was killed on August 5, 2005, in Norwalk on the Route 7 connector. He was a maintenance crew leader for 12 years with the Department of Transportation. Since then, our family has wondered how things can change for other state workers.

The only protection my husband had between him and traffic were orange cones. I feel safety measures should be taken for all state employees who work on the highway. I feel if there are state troopers paired near a work site, it would greatly slow down cars that are speeding.

When a pattern is set up, the orange crash truck is parked while the work is being done. I feel there should be a crash truck to protect the workers and also I feel there should be more billboards on the state's highway about slowing down in a work zone.

There should be a law that states anyone who kills someone in a work zone should get mandatory jail time. The man who killed my husband only served 5 months and that was only because he violated his probation. I feel if there had been a law on the books in the state, it would have saved my family a lot of undo stress.

I would like to thank Ron McLellan and his staff for trying to get S.B. 500 passed. I know if this bill is passed it would be a good thing for the workers. I think there should be more in the way of telling the public to slow down, as they are not slowing down and nothing will ever change if they don't slow down, unless they lose a loved one and experience the pain first hand.

I ask you to please support S.B. 500. Thank you.