

My name is Angela Sarahina. I come before you today as a daughter, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, and an aunt. On March 26, 2009, my nephew, Robert Kochuk died.

Here are some of the facts: Robert was 19 when he died. He left work around 10 P.M. in Windsor. He arrived at Dalton's Pub in East Hampton between 10:45 and 11 P.M. He drank there until after 1 A.M. and was killed at approximately 1:20.

Robert was a joy to everyone who knew him. He loved to make people laugh and he enjoyed life. He cherished his family and friends and now we are left with a void in our hearts and our lives

I will not pretend that I can even comprehend the pain my brother and sister-in-law went through and are still experiencing. But as an aunt, I can tell you that there isn't a day that goes by when I do not think of Robert. The misery I feel that he isn't with us today. The sadness of knowing that his life was cut short before it even really began; all his hopes and dreams that will never come true; the pain of knowing that I will never see his contagious smile again and the anger that I feel because this could have been avoided.

Underage drinking is a problem and even more so when it is done in an establishment that knowingly serves minors. Most minors assume that they are invincible and the concept of death doesn't exist when it concerns them. Add alcohol to this equation and it can only lead to heartache and never-ending pain.

While this Bill will not bring Robert back, if it saves even one child, it will be well worth passing the bill. Losing a family member or a friend, especially a young one, is devastating enough, knowing it could have been prevented makes it so much worse.

Thank you,

Angela Sarahina