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Public Hearing on Seat belts in School buses

February 17, 2010

My name is Ankoor Desai.

First of all, thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak to you and to show support for the bill requiring seat belts in school buses.

I attend Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science and the Rocky Hill High. I was not on the bus and therefore, cannot provide an expert testimony. But I do take similar bus to travel back and forth. I can tell you one thing for sure - I have lost a good friend and a family member. I think a lot about the accident and after talking to various students who were on the bus, one thing is sure - if there were seat belts, probably I would not be here today because Vikas would have been with us. Because of the unwillingness of the lawmakers to do the right thing, due to pressures from the lobbying groups for last twenty years, we have lost Vikas Parikh. Pl do the right thing before your kids or grand kids are involved in the accident and it is too late.

I urge you to listen to the students involved in the accident and learn from them. Ask them what happened. Let me ask you - pl raise your hand if you have talked to at least one student involved in the accident.

Why is the criteria - number of fatalities and not number of kids losing a limb, becoming paralyzed, damaging internal organs, etc. How many fatalities you are waiting for before making a right decision? Tell me, I am ready to sacrifice myself if it makes your decision making process easier or that's what is going to take to defeat the deep pocket lobbyists who are against the seat belts in school buses.

Pl do not ruin the future of this country. We are the future, take care of us. I hope you will make the right decision by ignoring short term political gains.

Thank you.

