

House Bill No. 5488

March 19, 2012

Co-Chair Coleman and Co-Chair Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Angela Loprete. And I come before you again. My daughter Maryann Loprete 27 years old shy 2 weeks from her 28th Birthday was tragedy taken away from us on January 28th 2010 by a drunk driver he was 3 times above the legal limit of .08

At 5am our doorbell rang. And standing at our front door was a Police officer he comes in and tells us that our daughter was in an automobile accident and she did not make it. Imagine a parent hearing such news. The words did not make any sense. I kept looking at him with such disbelief. My heart and all of my insides have been ripped apart a little piece at a time, each and every day. I'm still in total shock even after 2 years. It's so hard to image that these 2 years have passed by without our daughter.

My family and I were present month after month to appear in court to have the case continued over and over. On March 7th 2011 we appeared in court and a sentence of 8 years with 1 ½ years removed because it was his first offense. He is serving 3 ½ years with a 3 year probation. We were stunned to hear that. How could it be that a drunk driver takes a life and he only serves 3 ½ years. What an insult. Where is the justice to such a crime.

Having a driver's license is not a privilege it's a huge responsibility. A vehicle driven by someone under the influence is a lethal weapon. I ask you what is the difference between this and a loaded gun? The driver is in jail for 3 ½ years he has access to all privileges, TV, Gym, Library, Computer, Phone. And 3 square meals. While our lives have changed. Holidays, Anniversaries, or any other family functions do not mean anything anymore. My Husband will not see his little girl get married, walk her down the Isle. This was taken away from us. Stolen to be exact. My Daughter excelled in School. Graduated from Rocky Hill High School with Honors. Graduated from Central Connecticut with Honors as well. Maryann my daughter always help others. Her goal in life was to write and make a difference in Life. Maryann ran marathons, for Lukemia, MS, and so much more. My daughter wanted to help the Homeless, rehabilitate the Homeless. This dream of her's was taken away. I will never see her dreams and hopes. All the joy that My daughter gave us are gone the warmth and Happiness that to is gone.

The inmate serves 3 ½ years and then he's released. My sentence, my families sentence is a life time without parole. I ask you to please search in your heart of

hearts and help us. Hear what we have to say and what we been going through. We are speaking on behalf of our loved ones. We are their voices. I would hope that these laws are stricter and harsher penalties. We ask that when a sentence is giving, the inmate serves that term to the fullest.

As families of our loved ones. Do we get any credits back? Do we have our loved ones back? Do they get to come home to us? Can we tell them how much we have missed them and how much we love them? NO! We don't have that and never will! We talk to them in our hearts and visit them at the Cemetery we bring Flowers, Oranaments for Holdidays and we wish them a Happy Birthday and then we Sing Happy Birthday.

What I hear is that the Inmate has more rights. As long as they don't portrait any harm to society or a threat they can be released on good behavior. Don't forget what got them in Prison.

The State of Ct. is so concerned with Revenue, cutting cost that we the victims are forgotten. This office should protect us! Why are we forgotten, Now that the court dates are over and the inmate is in jail for a fraction of the time. And we are set aside. Their lives will go on no matter how they choose to their lives. We are still serving our sentence and that will not change.

We in the State of Connecticut are your Constituents. With our votes we put you in office to represent us. And now that we need your support we don't seem to have it. I don't understand how cutting cost and revenues are a major priority over someone's life.

How sad is that and most of all extremely disturbing and dishearten.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this with you.

Angela Loprete

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