

Testimony to the Transportation Committee

SB 697: An Act Required Motor Vehicle Insurance Providers To Offer Discounts To Customers Who Download Applications That Prevent Texting While Driving

February 20, 2013

My son was killed while jogging by a distracted driver last March.

For him it began as a regular Saturday morning. He always got up early, made breakfast, washed his dishes, made the bed, and cleaned his apartment. This weekend he strapped his new iPhone on his arm before his morning run. Kenneth was in training for a marathon in April.

Everything changed when he was struck and killed by a teenage driver who was distracted while using her cell phone to surf her school's website. Our son's life was taken because of this stupid act.

Kenneth was not carrying any identification when he was killed. His wallet and keys were still on the counter waiting his return. The police, through a runner's application Kenneth had downloaded to his new phone, were able to trace his run. They went to the starting point and met his landlord who acknowledged that Kenneth lived there. From that point the police in Norwalk worked with the Milford police to find us. The Milford police came to our house and told us our son was involved in an accident and drove us to the Norwalk hospital.

We arrived ten minutes too late. Kenneth had died from the injuries he received. We never got the chance to tell him how much we loved him, or to say goodbye.

My wife and I pray every night that no other parents get that knock on the door and see a police officer standing there or have to bury their child.

As time went by the police were able to determine what happened. We learned many things about smart phones. The history of what the driver, as well as my son, were doing was saved in the phone's memory.

The application (by Nike) that Kenneth was training with not only mapped his route from his apartment to where he was killed, it tracked his speed and distance and told him how he was doing.

With this type of technology available, there is no reason an app is not installed on every phone that would disable texting if the phone is moving in excess of ten miles per hour.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator reports over 3,000 people are killed each year by distracted drivers. Another 300,000 are injured. I understand those members include other than texting distractions, but texting is the number one cause.

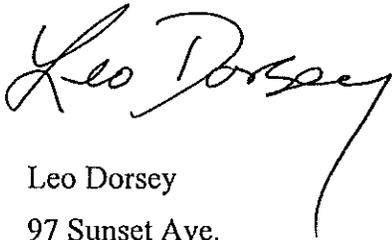
I don't believe that any one law will stop the misuse of cell phones or texting while driving, but any and every bill that seeks to protect our children is a step in the right direction.

Even if only one life is saved, be it a son or daughter, a mother or father, a sister or brother, you have done the right thing.

A while after my son's death I was contacted by a father of three and a jogger himself about Kenneth's age who read about Ken's death and created an application that he has made available for free on his website, www.gpsdrivertextlock.com.

Between a free app and discounted insurance this bill needs to be passed as soon as possible. Neither my wife nor myself hope we never read about someone else losing a child because of a senseless act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo Dorsey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and address.

Leo Dorsey
97 Sunset Ave.
Milford, CT 06460