

February 20, 2013

Testimony In Support of:

SB 796 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS THROUGH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Transportation Committee

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

I would like to introduce myself – my name is Lorisa Jones, and my son was struck and killed by a drunk driver on June 21, 2012 in New Britain, CT on his way home from work. I want to bring your attention to the name Rafaelito Ares, as he is the man that killed my son and destroyed my family's lives since that day. He took my son's life with no regard for anyone or anything else.

This man was a train wreck waiting to happen. This man has been arrested repeatedly for burglary, driving under the influence, narcotics, not appearing in court, and many other offenses. He has had his license suspended since 1997, yet continues to provide license numbers upon arrest. He continues to be arrested with no jail time or severe consequences. If this man had been arrested and served a proper sentence, he would not have been out and free to run the red light and hit my son.

It appears that many laws are lenient, or do not cross paths within the judicial system and motor vehicle system. If he was arrested for a DUI, his sentence was not combined with any other arrest for burglary, narcotics, etc. These records should be used together, to reinforce the strictness of the laws, and harsher penalties should be served. To close loopholes in state law that allowed Ares to escape punishment on driving charges while facing unrelated criminal charges. If offenses were combined and harsher penalties were doled out and there were bigger consequences for arrests, it could possibly help another family – possibly yours, to not have gone through what my family has been through. My son's life was cut short and his three daughters will never see their dad again because of the lenient laws in the State of Connecticut.

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