



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 9, 2015

Honorable Andrew Maynard, Co-Chair Transportation Committee
Honorable Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair Transportation Committee

RE: HB 5539 AN ACT INCREASING THE FINES FOR TEXTING WHILE DRIVING.

Dear Co-Chairmen Senator Maynard and Representative Guerrero, Vice-Chairs Senator Leone and Representative Arce, Ranking Members Senator Boucher and Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Frank N. Nicastro, Sr. and I am a State Representative from the 79th Assembly District from Bristol. I am urging you to favorably consider the above proposal. One day, I was having lunch in a restaurant when I realized a lady in distress was sitting next to me. I asked her if there was anything that I could do to help her. She told me a story about her son who was killed in an automobile accident. He was texting while driving. After listening to her heartbreaking story, I stated that I will do everything in my power to have the fines for texting while driving increased in an attempt to deter this destructive behavior. I also asked her to send me an e-mail with her statement, which you can find below. Here is an e-mail statement from Ms. Susan Goslicki:

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I received a call April 3rd from my daughter telling me I needed to come to her house. When I got there the police and many of their friends were there. I was told my son was in an accident and didn't make it. I fell to the ground, screamed not dead not dead. I couldn't breathe and was gasping for air. He was 39 years old engaged and had a 2 1/2 year old daughter with his finance. I couldn't have loved him more and he and his sister were the best of friends. Since we found out he was texting and driving, went over the yellow line, created a head on collision and died instantly. He was 500 yards from home texting his finance he was almost there.

That night we went to the hospital to see him and identify him. No mother should ever have to witness that but it enabled me to realize he really was dead. Since we have lived through his wake where there were over 400 people in attendance including the baseball team he coached. He was loved by many and remembered for his sense of humor. He loved to make people laugh. He was special.

We have gone through his 40th birthday 1 1/2 wks after his death, Easter, mother's day, Thanksgiving, Christmas etc all without him and in pain. For the first 2 1/2 months I cried all but 3 days. I would sob evenings and slam my fist on my kitchen table in anger that he is gone.

I cannot explain how tremendous our loss has been but I can reach out and ask legislation to increase the fines for texting and driving to help save our loved ones. Our decision makers have the power to help and I ask you to do this.

Constantly I see people on their cell phones either talking or texting. I really am not ready to die, don't want to lose anymore loved ones and ask you to help protect my grandchildren from those who need more incentive to not drive distracted.

I still cry and will always have to carry this loss but I hope by writing this and relaying this to you that I may save a life with your help from the loss of my own.

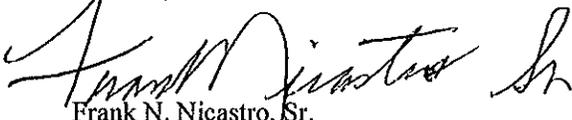
Please help,
Susan Goslicki

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I urge the Transportation Committee to pass this legislation. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Frank N. Nicastro, Sr.
State Representative