

February 6, 2015

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee:

Please consider this my testimony in support of Proposed Bill No. 5925: "AN ACT NAMING A DRIVEWAY AFTER LISA MAYNARD."

I am a Transportation Engineer with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) who worked with Lisa Maynard for 17 years. During that time I had the pleasure of becoming Lisa's husband, as well as the father to our two children, Jenna Dickinson, currently 17 years old, and Ryan Maynard, 11 years old.

Lisa was one of the kindest, most dedicated and respected individuals I knew at the DOT, and in life. She consistently put everyone else's concerns and problems before her own and she was always willing to lend a hand to those in need while never looking for anything in return. It was truly devastating to our family when Lisa was first diagnosed with cancer, but we remained hopeful and supportive as she began a 2 1/2 year battle that eventually came to an end with her passing 2 days before Christmas in 2012. This was the hardest day of my life, and not just because it was 2 days before Christmas and I didn't know what to do with the kids. For the first time in over 10 years I had to wake up and get through my daily life without her taking care of our children alone, trying to pick them up from something no child should ever have to go through, burying their mom. I was crushed.

The kids and I have battled through the emotional highs and lows over the last few years, going to the cemetery to visit Lisa on occasions such as her birthday, Mother's Day, Christmas, our anniversary, etc. I often go alone once a month just to visit and talk about the kids and all they've accomplished and the plans we have for the future. I just wish I got to continue to share those life events with Lisa by my side; she deserved that for all she did for everyone else and for the great mother and wife that she was.

The kids and I often find ourselves talking about Lisa and laughing about things from the past as we remember what a wonderful person, friend, mom and wife she was. As time goes by, however, the memories become a bit less vivid, so visual items such as photos, mementos, taking a ride in her old car, etc. revitalize those thoughts for us. Then, to my surprise, I discover that our friends and co-workers at the DOT began an effort to get this Bill endorsed on Lisa's behalf. What a commendable effort that was, and is. It touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes.

The thought of driving through Colchester with my children, 5 minutes from where Lisa is buried, and to be able to see this sign in Lisa's memory, well, there are no words to describe how emotional I became. I can't wait for the day when I can hopefully do just that and drive by with my children to see this sign standing proudly on Lisa's behalf, just like she stood, no matter what life threw at her. She was a wonderful person and she deserves an honor such as this.

I wish to thank the Committee from the bottom of my heart for considering Proposed Bill 5925.

Sincerely,

Everett Maynard  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
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