

March 21, 2016

To: Judiciary Committee
From: Joe DeGrandi, Berlin CT
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 5632

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Joe DeGrandi of Berlin, CT. I offer this testimony in support of H.B. No. 5632 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AN ACCIDENT REPORT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT IN WHICH A PERSON WAS KILLED.

On September 26, 2007, my daughter, Tina, was driving on Route 9 heading into Berlin. From witness reports it was a warm and dry day, traffic was light, and the roads were clear. When, at approximately 12:30pm, a driver from the other side of the road lost control of his pick-up truck, became airborne, crashed into the median fence, and then rolled over crushing my daughter's car. Tina died a short time later.

Several months later, my wife and I were informed by the state prosecutors that because the state police accident reconstruction specialists were unable to reach a conclusion in their report, the prosecutors were unable to charge the driver of the other vehicle. This was very difficult for us to hear. Not only had we lost our daughter, but the person responsible did not even receive a traffic ticket. How could this be?

I went out and hired an independent accident reconstruction team to review the statements that were collected by the state police, the specifications of the vehicles, the weather. They looked at every bit of information that they could get their hands on. They did come to a conclusion. However, I was told that the prosecutors were unable to use that report as part of their decision making process. I think that is wrong and should be fixed.

This bill will not bring my daughter back or give my family justice. But it will give us some kind of closure to know that if there are other horrific accidents like the one my daughter was in that the state will make every effort possible to reach a conclusion and have that evidence presented to a jury. I hope no one has to go through what my family is still dealing with.

Thank you for your consideration.