

March 4, 2021

RE: *Tristan's Law*, proposed SB Bill No. 608, An Act Concerning The Safety of Children When Buying Ice Cream From a Frozen Dessert Truck.

Dear members of the Transportation Committee:

I am writing to request that you support proposed SB Bill No. 608 to enact safety protocols concerning the use and operation of ice cream trucks and frozen dessert vending trucks.

On June 12, 2020, Tristan D. Barhorst's life suddenly came to an end after a tragic incident involving an ice cream truck and another vehicle on Wiese Road in Cheshire. Tristan, age 10, and a group of children had to cross Wiese Road in order to access the ice cream truck. Upon purchasing his ice cream, Tristan attempted to return to the west side of Wiese Road when a vehicle attempted to pass around the ice cream truck from behind and struck Tristan.

The proposed legislation would require ice cream trucks and frozen dessert vending trucks to have the necessary equipment in order to put motor vehicle drivers on notice that children may be present and thus, influence the drivers' behavior. Such equipment includes, flashing signal lamps, signal arms and caution signs, front convex mirrors and rear visibility equipment to increase the driver's line of site. The legislation would further require ice cream truck operators to activate their signs at each stop and require vehicles to stop while the sign is extended. The ice cream truck involved in this incident had such equipment attached to the vehicle but the operator chose not to activate the sign. This law would require the sign and signals to be activated at all times when the ice cream truck is vending and thus reduce the risk of another child and family to endure such a tragic loss.

In order to protect the safety of children and families, I urge you to support *Tristan's Law*.

Very truly yours,

Matthew Pettruzzelli

