

HB 1102 Suzanne McClung Testimony

Dear Madame Chair, Mister Vice Chair, and members of the Transportation & Energy committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support of House Bill 1102. I strongly endorse this bill because I know firsthand the tragedy and pain that can be caused by impaired driving.

On the evening of May 16, 2018, I was driving on I-70 when an impaired driver drove without her lights on, onto an off ramp, turned the wrong way onto the highway, accelerated to full speed, and hit me head on. The officer who investigated the crash said that if the collision had happened 2 cm in a different direction, I would have been dead. He said it was the most egregious scene he had ever seen where there were no fatalities. The driver's car caught on fire, and I had to be removed from my car before first responders got there because it looked like mine might also catch fire.

I sustained multiple injuries from the crash. I had two broken legs, a broken wrist, a broken rib, a broken finger and a concussion. I had 3 surgeries in 5 days. I missed my son's high school graduation because I was in surgery. I missed my youngest's dance recital. I was in the hospital and rehab for 23 days, away from my family and uncertain about how everything would turn out. I spent more than 3 months in a wheelchair and couldn't be left alone. I had to learn to walk again. And then there was the emotional trauma...I cried daily through the first couple of months. It was so hard to lose my mobility and so hard to understand why someone would drive at 3 times the legal limit and also have THC in their system. I was very afraid to drive again.

I have been lucky to have an excellent recovery but it has taken an incredible amount of work and physical and mental health therapies. Those therapies continue. I still have pain in my left leg and right hip. I have recurring lower back issues that keep me from doing everything I'd like to do. My head doesn't turn as far to one side as it should because of issues in my neck related to the rib fracture. I still struggle to drive at night, especially on highways. It can still be difficult to be around people who are drinking or to hear people make jokes about getting drunk.

I strongly support this bill because it will make our roads safer and keep people from driving while impaired. I don't want other people to have to live through an experience like mine. Thank you for your time and please vote yes on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Suzanne McClung