

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Jill Spencer

Date: April 16, 2015

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 3233

Chairman Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jill Spencer.

On July 24, 2009, my 16 year old daughter Lexi got into a vehicle with a very impaired driver. She was a junior at Clackamas High School. The driver took a corner in a residential neighborhood at 95 mph, jumped a curb, and tore a telephone pole in half, flipping the car and landing in someone's front yard. I was later told this group of boys she was riding with had drove drunk several times, however it took this fatality for them to supposedly stop.

House Bill 3233 hits me hard. While the boy sat in prison I decided to do a facilitated dialogue program to speak to him and see how he has progressed about his decisions. I believe anyone can change if given the right community around them for support. As our four-hour talking session was ending, I was pleased how everything had gone....until he said how upset he is that he cannot have his license when he gets out. It was an inconvenience to him. I lost my daughter, but not having a license is a simple inconvenience. I was beyond upset.

When you put an impaired person behind a 5,000 lb. car...it's playing Russian Roulette. It's not if they are going to kill or injure someone...it's when. So imagine my shock and anger when I read House Bill 3233 and saw the proposal that would allow a felon DUII offender – someone with four or more DUII offenses – to get behind the wheel in a short five years. After the diversion agreement. After the suspensions. After the treatment programs and education. After the counseling. After the ignition interlock devices. After every measure we as society have put in place to help offenders make safer choices...and they have blatantly and repeatedly refused. And now somehow House Bill 3233 that allows the worst of the worst offenders behind the wheel early is magically going to keep us all safe.

Maybe it was inconvenient for these felony repeat offenders to drive impaired. Maybe they didn't want to stop partying with their friends and be responsible. Maybe they didn't want to spend the money on a taxi. Maybe they didn't want to wait for their family or friends to pick them up. Now, House Bill 3233 says their families are being inconvenienced because they are

stuck driving them around and they want a cheap, easy solution that puts the rest of society in jeopardy.

My beautiful daughter, whom I will never see again, became a statistic that day. She was only one of 115 people killed in Oregon from drunk drivers in 2009. Until your child dies or someone dear to you does, maybe you won't get it. It's hard to understand. But making it easier for a repeat drunk driver to get back behind that wheel is not the way we should be going. It's no different than letting the offender pull that trigger one more time in Russian Roulette. It's not if they kill someone..it's when they kill someone. The citizens and the victims in Oregon deserve better than House Bill 3233.

Thank you for your time today.