

April 29, 2015

Thank you Chair McKeown and members of the committee. My name is Amanda Mckenzie. I live in Keizer, OR. I am here with my 17-year-old brother, Chris Jenkins, also a Keizer resident, to speak to Senate Bill 921. On Tuesday, April 14 Chris was traveling to work on I-5 south towards the Market street exit. Due to extreme weather, he was going just under the posted speed limit of 60. A sudden torrential downpour caused him to hydroplane and spin across three lanes of traffic in front of a semi-truck and several vehicles before finally coming to a rest against the newly placed cable barriers. My husband happened to be commuting home on I-5 north around the same exact time and location and also hydroplaned but did not leave the road. Fortunately, the extent of my brother's accident was a cracked taillight and a little mud and dirt in the under carriage of the vehicle. There were no other vehicles involved and absolutely no injuries sustained. If the cable barriers hadn't been there I fear the situation would have been a mirror image of the tragic event that took the lives of Dr. Fritz and Cary Fairchild last September. The grassy berm that once separated the north and south bound lanes could have very easily propelled my brother's car into the north bound lanes. Friends, as well as several other colleagues, and I were commuting to work the fateful morning of Dr. Fritz's accident. I passed the accident moments after it happened and will never forget the images of crumpled cars and confusion. Had those cable barriers been in place, lives would have been saved. Now, every single morning I pass the location of both accidents. The muddy grooves from my brother's car near the cable barriers are becoming dusty tracks overgrown with foliage and fade a little more each day. But even though the scene fades, I am continuously overwhelmed with how fortunate we are to still have Chris here with us. I know there are funding challenges, but my hope today is that this project will continue to move forward so that additional lives will be saved and other occurrences will be just as uneventful as my little brothers. In his words, he felt "safe and at peace" the day of his accident. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today.

Amanda Mckenzie
5241 Woodwind Ct N
Keizer, OR 97303