

KS Legislative Speech for SAFE CLUB -Winter 2017-HB2076

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I would like to thank you all for taking the time to listen to my story and my testimony today. You have a very important job that effects ALL Kansans and our way of life. On January 3rd, 2017 I had just finished another successful school day and I decided to go get gasoline and treat myself to a soda at our local service station that is located near 69 highway. At 3:40 pm. I was approaching the station and was a mere 500 feet from the entrance when I noticed approaching from my right a truck that was not slowing down that had a stop sign . Instinctively, I covered the brake and attempted to slow down. The truck did not stop at the stop sign and hit my front right bumper. My car spun all the way around and I ended up crashing into the WELCOME to PLEASANTON sign that was made of iron bar fencing and concrete. My 1997 grand marquis had the front end smashed like an aluminum can and luckily the airbags deployed. I had on my seatbelt as well. Had I forgotten my seatbelt, I believe that I would not be here today. Others that experience wrecks way too frequently have told me the same. I have been an active member of my school SAFE club chapter for the past two years serving as an officer and even presenting for our chapter at the annual KDOT Transpiration Safety Conference in Topeka last year. I do not belong to the club because my dad – our principal is one of the club sponsors. It is because it is something that I believe in. Did I mention that the gentleman that hit me was BUZZ driving and admitted that he was lighting a cigarette and did not see the stop sign – that is why he hit my car going over 45 miles per hour. I am here today to ask for your support to allocate a portion of the seatbelt tickets issued to go towards the state SAFE club effort. I feel like you doing so is promoting the education and protection of Kansas youth. It also promotes SAFE driving practices as well. I again thank you for your time and I hope that you consider my story in your decision making. I feel very fortunate to be standing before you today.