

Testimony of Alyssa Burns for the November 4th, 2025 Interim Joint Committee on Transportation Meeting

Hi there, firstly I'd like to thank the members present here today and also thank you for the opportunity to tell our story. My name is Alyssa Burns, and I want to tell you a story about a little girl named Camberleigh. She was the funniest, kindest, and sweetest girl. Water was one of her favorite things and so of course bath time and dogs water bowls were the funnest places to be. Other than outside, my nature loving girl just wanted to sit in the sun and play in the grass. October 28th 2022, we got Cammie ready to go to her Nonnies for her weekend and then we would come back and all be scarecrows for Halloween. We kept our morning slow and steady. Usually around this time, she needed her nonnie and pop-pop time. Her uncle Sammy also is there so it's just a party at the grandparents. Her uncle Sammy (being only 17 at the time) was her entire world and vice versa. So, after our peaceful morning, we started getting ready to go. I get her buckled into her car seat, and off we go. What seems like a few moments later Sahlin says "oh crap" I look up to see traffic. I look back at Cammie and see that her eyes are low and sleepy. She's got her binkie and her blanket up to her cheek. I turn back around and black. I don't remember anything else from that day really because of a brain injury. Or the next few days. For 1086 days I had an angel on earth.

She was nothing less of a pure light that was put on this earth to basically save her mother. I'm sure a lot of you can relate when I say that.

Our children truly are our lives, and our future.

But my child was not only stripped of that light within a blink, she was robbed of her future.

She could've been the doctor that saves your child one day. But we will never know her full potential because of a reckless driver. Who by the way, was not prosecuted only because of the fact he had nothing in his system. Is the point we're trying to prove here that if you have a license and a vehicle, you have a pass to kill? Yes, he was speeding. Yes, it was a construction zone. Yes, he has been a habitual offender being caught twice prior to October 28th 2022. Yes, she was buckled safely and correctly in her car seat. It was a construction zone as well and we were at a complete stop in traffic that a lot of us find ourselves in. Witness testimony has gone even further to say he was raging and tailgating miles behind us before barreling into our backseat. But the words from our commonwealth was "we're trying our best to curb these ills". And "we're so sorry but Rykers actions do not warrant a felony conviction" Ryker's actions do not warrant a felony conviction? But an innocent child was torn apart literally.

Her injuries were

Nearly decapitated

Eye out of socket

Every bone broken in her back and neck

Head split open

Was pulled out of a 4x4 space

But apparently in the eyes of our Kentucky Commonwealth using your vehicle as a weapon, or a toy, and it ending in the death of a child doesn't warrant charges.

Why? Why wait until it's your child to care? I was ignorant myself. I didn't realize that our system was flawed in this way, my daughter was 13 days away from her second birthday. And instead, I'm holding public rallies, and walk-a-thons, and tell her younger sister that she shouldn't be the oldest living child. Instead of saying sorry, help me do something about it. Because this can happen to anyone, including you and your kids. Tragedy doesn't see age. I'll never know the real reason as to why my daughter isn't here anymore as the only words I've gotten from my daughter's executioner "I was not paying attention" I'll never know what took his attention away from saving a life that day. I don't understand, and you shouldn't either. It doesn't not matter if you are late getting home. This wasn't an act of God, or a sickness, or a failure on my end as a parent and yet she's gone. Please, if you don't vote yes on the hands-free bill that would help take the licenses away from these people who think our vehicles are play things, at least remember Camberleigh. Remember her when you get in your vehicle so, that hopefully one day you save yourselves and others from feeling this pain on both ends. Be the reason someone stops driving while on their phone, or road raging, or speeding. Because it is a choice. Please help me in continuing to make safety the priority.

I know this bill doesn't bring Camberleigh back, or doesn't bring the justice that is due to us but it plants a seed for safety and security on our Kentucky roads. And I am here to support and help pass this bill all i can ask is that you join me.