

Philip Walker
120 Swan Ln
Levittown, NY
11756

Dear Philip;

I learned about your family tragedy in a Newsday article. Few of us understand the depth of grief that accompanies the loss of a child. My heart-felt sympathies go out to you and your family. We lost our son Brian (33) to drugged drivers just two months before the birth of his first child. We understand and share your sorrow.

I note with interest your push to have mandatory drug testing in cases of fatal crashes, something I fully support.

I invite you to peruse our website, www.duidvictimvoices.org. You'll see stories of other victims, the issues we support, and blogs dealing with drugged driving. I invite you to share your story with us so that we may have a stronger voice.

In most states, officers must first establish probable cause before requiring that a driver be subjected to biological drug testing. If a judge isn't satisfied that probable cause was established, the evidence of drug usage leading to observed impairment can be deemed not admissible. That's what happened to one of our victims, the family of Steve and Patty Smith. Your proposal would obviate the need for separately establishing probable cause, a time-consuming event that many officers are ill equipped to do in the case of drug impairment, unless they have DRE training. So you can see why we support your cause.

I hope to hear from you.

Regards,

Ed Wood



DUID Victim Voices

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Why Join DUID Victim Voices?

- DUID Victim Voices is a victim-managed network of citizens that advocates stronger legislation to combat Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID)
- Legislators frequently hear from pro-drug lobbyists seeking to liberalize our nation's illicit drug laws, usually with little to no concern about the effect liberalization would have on highway safety.
- Rarely do legislators hear the other side of the story from DUID victims.
- When legislators hear from DUID victims, it makes a difference. It stiffens their resolve to act and vote responsibly.
- Your voice as a DUID victim will never outnumber the voices of the pro-drug lobby. But your voice is much more powerful than theirs.

Contact: www.duidvictimvoices.org

1. Telephone

Call Ed Wood, founder of DUID Victim Voices, for questions or further information.
(303) 478-7636

2. Write

DUID Victim Voices
PO Box 986
Morrison, CO
80465

Tell us your story. Include your name and how we may contact you to follow up.

3. Email

ed@duidvictimvoices.org

Tell us your story. Include your name and how we may contact you to follow up.

4. Visit our website

www.duidvictimvoices.org



Drugged Driving Destroys Lives Make a difference!

- Are you a victim of Drugged Driving?
- Have you been injured by a Drugged Driver?
- Has a close friend or family member been killed or injured by a Drugged Driver?
- Do you want to help rid our country of Drugged Driving?

Join DUID Victim Voices

We are a DUID Victim Network, dedicated to drugged driving education and the promotion of effective drugged driving legislation.

Your story will be heard.

Your voice can make a difference.

Drugged Driving Facts

- In 33 states (including Colorado) it is not unlawful to drive with illegal drugs in your body.
- In 2010, 31% of drivers involved in fatal collisions for whom drug test results are available, tested positive for at least one illicit drug.¹
- Fatal traffic collisions are declining in Colorado. Yet traffic collisions involving drugs are increasing. From 2006 to 2010, the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes declined 17%. But the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes with positive drug tests increased 5%.²
- Marijuana-impaired driving is part of the problem: Over the last five years, 58% of all DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) evaluations implicated marijuana as the drug suspected of causing impairment.³ In 2010, 55% of drivers involved with fatal collisions that tested positive for THC also tested positive for alcohol and/or other illicit drugs.⁴ Between 2006 and 2010, the number of drivers reported to be involved with fatal collisions who tested positive for cannabis has doubled.⁵

Drugged Driving Laws

Although it is unlawful to drive while under the influence of drugs, the mere presence of drugs combined with erratic driving does not prove that someone is DUID. DUID must be proven in court.

Proving alcohol DUI in court is difficult. Alcohol DUI *per se* laws were passed to solve this problem. Those laws, plus education and enforcement have caused a dramatic drop in alcohol DUI over the last several decades. A very high percentage of alcohol DUI charges result in convictions, due to the alcohol *per se* laws.

The same is not true of drug DUID charges. All too often, DUID drivers are either not convicted, or are convicted of reckless driving, which results in lower sentences than DUID driving. Lower sentences further victimize DUID victims.

The Department of Transportation enforces zero tolerance DUID *per se* rules for professional drivers, but the first DUID *per se* law for other drivers wasn't passed until 1990, in Arizona. Today, 19 states have some form of DUID *per se* law, some better than others.

Effective DUID *per se* laws are supported by the Governor's Highway Safety Association, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and nearly every other law enforcement and highway safety association.

About DUID Victim Voices

DUID Victim Voices is a private effort, led by a DUID victim, Ed Wood. His son Brian was killed by drugged drivers in Washington.

DUID Victim Voices is dedicated to promoting effective laws to reduce drugged driving. Our current efforts are focused on Colorado, but we work with partners across America. Our current efforts are directed at:

1. DUID laws to enable conviction of drugged drivers;
2. DUI law revision to enable data collection on DUIDs;
3. Mandatory drug testing for drivers involved with collisions that result in death or serious injury; and
4. More rapid, less invasive drug testing.

We provide educational materials to legislators to help them understand the scientific differences between alcohol impairment and drug impairment. Our educational material is solidly grounded in facts and scientific support.

We arrange for your testimony before legislators who consider the above initiatives. Although our efforts are fact-based, we also rely upon the value of emotional arguments from victims.

We need your help! Please call or write!

Learn more at:
www.duidvictimvoices.org
www.stopduid.org
www.ibhinc.org
www.druggeddriving.org

¹ CDOT 2010 FARS data

² CDOT 2010 FARS data

³ CDOT Fact Sheet, Aug 9, 2011

⁴ CDOT 2010 FARS data

⁵ CDOT 2010 FARS data