

- Good morning Mr. Chairmen and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee.
- Representative Schauer reminded the committee of the young west fargo family who were senselessly killed by a drunk driver.....that was my family.
- My name is Tom Deutscher. Some of you may remember July 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.... others not. But with the loss of and at the expense of our children ... this very committee bravely considered HB1302 otherwise known as Brielle's Law. Unanimously agreeing that it was time to address the growing numbers of DUI accidents and fatalities.... and the burden it imposes on all of us.
- I can certainly testify to the tremendous strain it can put on a family's personal, social and financial situations. They are essentially immeasurable.... it nearly destroyed my family .... so I retired early for the sole purpose of holding my remaining family together.
- In a scenario where our grandchildren somehow survived....it would have been left up to the relatives to raise them..... a hardship in many ways but we could have probably done it. This is not always the case as most of us can attest to today's cost of raising our own children much less someone else's....and I'm assuming that most of us in the room are not the Kardashians.

- I believe this bill has several notable purposes...addressing the necessity for additional deterrents to a growing impaired driving issue.... and holding those accountable by providing financial assistance to the applicable surviving children.
- 12 years ago I stood before this very committee..... and I remember one member saying to me...that some of the more challenging decisions he's had to make were those which revolved around families. At times they seemed far reaching and impactful...and that sometimes the right decision may not always be the popular decision.
- Someone once said ... that most victims have no voice in their fate and that sometimes ... just sometimes...others have to be their voice. Be their voice.
- I ask that you seriously consider HB 1558 to be utilized (at the courts discretion) for the disadvantaged children in these cases and to advance our agenda of reducing the number of impaired driver arrests, accidents and fatalities.
- To this committee and Mr. Chairman ... I thank you ...questions?