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My name is Hailee Fletcher, and I am an ICU nurse in Minot, ND. I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of drunk and impaired driving. I am writing today to strongly support the implementation of harsher penalties for DUI offenders.

Every day, I care for patients whose lives have been shattered by someone else's reckless decision to drive under the influence. I have comforted parents, children, and close friends of my patients as they said goodbye to their loved one, a victim of a preventable crash. I have watched survivors endure excruciating pain, multiple surgeries, and lifelong disabilities—all because of an intoxicated driver who made the selfish choice to get behind the wheel.

The current penalties for DUI offenses do not reflect the irreversible harm they cause. Too often, offenders receive lenient sentences, only to repeat their actions without regard for the safety of others on the road. Tougher punishments, including longer license suspensions, mandatory ignition interlock devices, and especially increased jail time, are not just about justice—they are about deterrence and saving lives.

The emotional and financial toll of DUI-related crashes is immeasurable. Families are left with unpayable medical bills, lost income, and trauma that will never fully heal. How many more victims of DUI related crashes will I care for with only the slightest bit of hope of justice for them, and their family members? Strengthening DUI penalties sends a clear message: driving under the influence is not just a mistake—it is a crime with serious consequences.

As someone who has seen the worst outcomes of these avoidable tragedies, I urge you to take action. Lives depend on it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting our communities.

Sincerely,  
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