

Dear House Transportation Committee,

My name is Katelyn Denne and I am writing in **support** of HB 1503, regarding the strengthening of penalties for DUI with serious bodily injury. There is no reason that we shouldn't have stricter laws regarding DUI with bodily injury, and to be candid, this legislation still does not go far enough. Those that choose to drive impaired often end up being able to go back to a somewhat normal life, while those that are victims of impaired drivers have life-long physical, mental and emotional issues. I have seen this first-hand in our community in Minot. A local senior in high school was hit by an impaired driver. He received a five-year sentence, first serving two and half years with three years of supervised probation after that. Tyanna, the victim, has endured a year of medical procedures, numerous doctor appointments, has had to spend what should have been her first year in college, re-learning how to do basic human functions. There are permanent, life-long issues that she will have to live with. The punishment does not fit the crime. Another horror story our community experienced was a man driving under the influence, crashing into a local liquor store, his car hitting an employee of the store. Again, he received a five-year sentence, two years in jail and three years supervised probation. The victim endured an ICU stay and continued doctoring and physical therapy for her injuries. The punishment does not fit the crime. This legislation is critical to holding individuals accountable for driving under the influence and causing serious bodily harm. The State of North Dakota should send the message that we take driving under the influence seriously. Please support this legislation to show victims of these crimes that their lives matter and bring some justice to the victims and their families.

Thank you for your service on the transportation committee and your public service.

Katelyn Denne

Minot, ND