

**Testimony**  
**House Bill No. 1503**  
**House Department of Transportation**  
**February 5, 2025**

Chairman Dan Ruby and members of the Department of Transportation Committee,  
My name is Brianna Weeks, and I am the mother of Tyanna Weeks, who was severely injured by an impaired driver. I am here today to express my full support for House Bill 1503, which was introduced at the department's request.

On January 31, 2024, Tyanna was driving home after working a shift at the hospital. What should have been a routine drive turned into a nightmare when she encountered a drunk driver head on. Tyanna suffered life-threatening injuries, including a collapsed lung, a broken femur, a broken ulna, multiple facial fractures, and a traumatic brain injury. She spent six months away from home in hospitals and recovery centers, undergoing numerous surgeries, with more to come. Her recovery is far from complete. Her new reality involves ongoing physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and vision therapy on a weekly basis. She receives injections every 12 weeks to manage the spasticity in her left hand, which will never fully regain function. She has lost her peripheral vision, and experiences pain every day from headaches, inflammation, and intense body aches caused by the metal in her body. Tyanna will likely spend years in therapy, enduring countless doctor appointments and surgeries.

Everything I've shared with you today was not the result of an event, an occurrence, or an accident. It was a choice. A choice that has left Tyanna with a severe traumatic brain injury, a lifelong sentence for both her and our family.

Under North Dakota's current law, the individual responsible for this tragedy faced a maximum sentence of just five years in jail—only 1,825 days—for causing a lifetime of pain, injuries, and disabilities. I respectfully ask you to consider the magnitude and lasting impact of this crime. I fear that without change, more families will suffer the same fate, as our current laws are far too lenient.