

**Testimony of Traci L. Derr  
Before the  
House Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing  
7/14/98  
1:00 p.m.**

Good afternoon Chairman Gannon, Chairman Caltagirone and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Traci Derr and I am a registered nurse with a Dialysis Unit located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I have been a practicing registered nurse for the past two years with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from York College of Pennsylvania

I would like to talk to you about the importance of standard or primary enforcement and how my life was saved because I was wearing a safety belt.

About eight years ago, a friend and myself were involved in a rather serious car accident. We were traveling on Wesley Drive in Mechanicsburg when another car swerved over the double yellow line and hit us head on. Fortunately, both the driver and myself were wearing our safety belts.



Although I did receive a fractured sternum as a result of my wearing the safety belt, the police officers at the scene of the accident informed my parents that I probably would not have survived the accident without the safety belt. As a result, my injuries were insignificant, I was treated at the Emergency Room and released that same night. The driver of the car I was in sustained a mild concussion and a laceration on her chin. She was also treated and released the next day.

Unfortunately, the driver of the car who caused the accident was not restrained and was lifelined to York Hospital. Although I do not know the details of her injuries or her recovery. I can say that the accident occurred on February 7 of that year, at the end of May the driver of the other car was still in a rehab hospital recovering from her injuries.

Thank you very much and at this point I will answer any questions you may have on my testimony.

