

## Senate Bill 25

My name is Nicole Allensworth, I am 44 years old, and I live in Lawrence, Kansas. On June 10, 2015 I was texting and driving. Being distracted, I ended up over correcting myself resulting in a two vehicle car crash that ended up causing me to have a Traumatic Brain Injury. Before my crash; I was attending school full time at Johnson County Community College, getting nothing but A's and B's, and working on graduating with honors. I was also working part time, as well as raising my children as a single mom. After my crash, I was in the hospital and rehabilitation center for 27 days and continuing to receive services in my journey. I am unfortunately not able to return to college due to learning disabilities caused by my Traumatic Brain Injury. Though I have been able to get a job working with others who have a Traumatic Brain Injury. A list of those disabilities/symptoms of a Traumatic Brain Injury are attached. My family has been effected by my Traumatic Brain Injury. One of my older sisters and my oldest child has disowned me, and my youngest has not spoken to me in several months because of the challenges from the Traumatic Brain Injury. I still have support from most of my siblings. And especially I am thankful I still have my mom, and she is my biggest support.

I understand and acknowledge the increase in distracted driving. Passing Senate Bill 25 is only going to put a dent in the epidemic. We need to go full force. As the world has been facing the pandemic full force we need to follow suit.

Texting and driving crashes are happening every where not just at schools and construction zones. Mine happened on the highway.

I am lucky that my children were not with me that day for it would have killed them instantly, as well as the man did not die due to my distracted driving. If either my children or the man died; I would not be here to share my story today because of distracted driving. The journey of my life has been completely altered.

I am here to ask for you to push the texting and driving law stronger then just in school and construction zones. I am sure you are aware of the dangers of distracted driving, but I am lucky to be here today to tell my story to you so you can make a difference in other people's lives.

## **SYMPTOMS OF A BRAIN INJURY INCLUDE:**

- Poor coordination, balance, or muscle control
- Blurred speech, vision, or impaired hearing
- Difficulty with attention, concentration, memory, or understanding
- Difficulty controlling anger and/or aggressive behavior
- Confusion, disorientation, dizziness
- Difficulty processing and slow response time
- Impatience, anxiety, or agitation
- Seizures, headaches, or fatigue

I can best communicate in a calm, non-confrontational manner. If I am experiencing a crisis and you need further information or assistance please call the emergency contact number on the other side of this card. Thank you for your courtesy and assistance!

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