

Good Morning,

My name is Tami Roach and I speak before you today at the invitation of legislator Bernado to bring into the public's awareness a vitally important bill called the Grieving Families Act, which not only affects me personally, but has the potential to impact most families across NYS should they find themselves in my unfortunate position.

At 4:53 pm on August 11, I received the phone call that is every parents worst nightmare. My only child, Travis Shane Davis, was killed in a motorcycle collision when a negligent motorist cut him off in his lane of travel. While she merely received a traffic ticket for failing to yield the right-of-way and returned to her children, I was tasked with writing my son's obituary and preparing funeral arrangements.

As uncomfortable as it is to consider, many more NY families will receive similar gut wrenching news that will steal the breath from their lungs and drop them to their knees next week, next month and next year.

NYS wrongful death law, enacted in 1847, grossly fails to reflect the monumental societal changes that have occurred in the 177 years since its inception. It perpetuates the negative impact upon our ^{unmarried} children, grandchildren, women, minorities and elders. - Citizens who comprise

the vast majority of our families in 2024. As it stands, bereaved families are deprived compensation for their unbearable grief, mental anguish and emotional suffering following the heart wrenching loss of a loved one due to the negligent actions of another.

The Grieving Families Act seeks to remedy this, among other things, by allowing NY courts to recognize our profound grief and emotional turmoil when compensating for the loss of a loved one under such tragic circumstances.

I urge Gov. Hochul to reconsider her position on the Grieving Families Act when voting again in December, and to ^{do the right} make the necessary changes for the benefit of all NY families.

The time is now for NY's lawmakers to align with 48 other US states to promote a future where accountability reigns in the face of wrongful deaths, and where justice is championed above negligence.

It's time for NYers to unite and demand the enactment of the Grieving Families Act and for those responsible for the wrongful deaths of our loved ones to be held accountable. Every member of our families matter because we are all priceless. Thank you.