

Written Testimony in Support of the Jay Alert Bill (HB 988)

Submitted by Megan Eskuchen

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Senator Miller and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Megan Eskuchen, and I work as an Executive Assistant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. I am also a Vision Zero Philadelphia Ambassador, working at the community level to prevent traffic deaths and serious injuries across our city.

At CHOP, I support leaders who are deeply committed to improving outcomes for children—not only within hospital walls, but in the environments where they live, play, and travel. Through both my professional role and my work with Vision Zero, I see firsthand the devastating and lasting impact that traffic violence—especially hit-and-run crashes—has on children, families, and entire communities.

Hit-and-run incidents are uniquely harmful. Beyond the physical injuries, they leave families without answers and without accountability. As highlighted in this hearing's materials, dozens of lives are lost each year in Pennsylvania due to hit-and-run crashes, with hundreds more suffering serious injuries. These are not just statistics—they represent children who never make it home, families navigating lifelong trauma, and communities left searching for solutions.

The Jay Alert bill represents a practical and urgently needed response.

By creating a system to quickly share vehicle information with auto repair shops after serious hit-and-run crashes, this legislation strengthens our ability to identify vehicles involved and hold drivers accountable.

From a Vision Zero perspective, this bill aligns directly with the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities. Prevention is always the priority—but when crashes do occur, swift response and accountability are critical. An alert system increases the likelihood that drivers who flee the scene are identified quickly, reinforcing a culture where leaving the scene of a crash is not an option.

Children who survive serious crashes often face long recoveries—physically, emotionally, and developmentally. Families are left navigating complex care needs while also coping with uncertainty and grief. Policies like the Jay Alert bill do not just support enforcement—they support healing by helping provide answers.

I also want to emphasize the community impact. As a Vision Zero Ambassador, I regularly engage with residents who are deeply concerned about speeding, unsafe streets, and the lack of accountability for dangerous driving. Hit-and-run crashes erode public trust. Legislation like this helps restore it by showing that systems are in place to respond quickly and effectively.

It does not attempt to solve every aspect of traffic violence—but it addresses a critical gap in how we respond to some of the most devastating crashes.

At CHOP, our mission extends beyond treating injuries—we are committed to advancing policies that prevent them. As someone who supports that mission every day, and as a community advocate working toward safer streets, I strongly urge you to support the passage of this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.