



MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

45 SHAWMUT ROAD | CANTON, MA 02021 | 781.830.4800 | F: 781.830.4801 | www.norfolkda.com

Press Release

Haley Cremer's Family and Norfolk DA Morrissey push for law change

Contact: D.Traub, 781-830-4917



State Rep. Louis Kafka, standing at right, opens Judiciary Committee testimony on the bill he has crafted with DA Morrissey and the Cremer family on crashes where the driver is not licensed. Those speaking on the bill included Morrissey, at table at left, Attorney Steven Litner over his shoulder, Marc, Ivie and Morgan Cremer.

District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey joined the parents and sister of a motor vehicle homicide victim at the State House last week, testifying in support of new legislation to enhance penalties for those who choose to drive without a license and then injure others.

"The penalty now for operating a motor vehicle after suspension is the same whether you are harmlessly pulled over or whether you hurt or even kill another," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The drunk driving statute creates stepped levels of penalty if you cause injury, serious injury or death when you choose to drive drunk or high. This legislation would create similar steps when you choose to drive without a license."

The bill would only address people whose licenses were suspended for cause – not those who fail to pay tickets or other administrative problems, Morrissey said.

The bill, submitted by state Representative Louis Kafka and 28 co-sponsors, is the second piece of legislation put forward by the family of Haley Cremer, a standout graduate of Sharon High School killed on Father's Day in 2014 while out for a jog. The driver, whose license had been suspended, was convicted of several charges including motor vehicle homicide.

The first bill, signed into law last year, directs the Registry of Motor Vehicles to inform municipal police departments when residents of their towns have their licenses suspended. Officers, particularly in smaller towns, tend to know a good number of residents by sight; the registry's information allows more pro-active policing.

Haley's parents Marc and Ivie, who have since moved to Easton, her sister Morgan and uncle Steven Litner testified before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary April 12. They asked the Judiciary Committee to recommend passage of the measure. Sharon's Deputy Police Chief John Ford and Officer's Michael Hocking and Adam Levitt attended in support.

The following morning, the Cremer's were back in Boston receiving an award for their outstanding advocacy from the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance. That Friday night, Marc Cremer joined DA Morrissey for an hour-long interview on WBZ radio discussing the legislation and the work being done by www.haleycremerfoundation.org.

"Turning trauma and tragedy of the scale the Cremers have experienced into this kind of impactful advocacy is simply impossible for many – and understandably so," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The Cremers continue to give of themselves and honor their daughter and sister in a way that is very powerful."