

September 20, 2016

Dear Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee Members:

On a beautiful August afternoon in 2013, an SUV swerved and hit my husband Charlie Warner while he was on a training ride for the DALMAC. He passed away over eight months later, spending all but the last two weeks in various hospitals without much quality of life and in constant pain. He left behind myself (his wife of twenty-five years), a twenty-four-year-old son, a twenty-year old daughter, and a ninety-two-year-old mother.

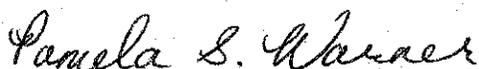
The loss of Charlie affected many people. Obviously, our family's loss immediately comes to mind, because he was the backbone of it. The one defining feature that everyone mentions is that he was always there supporting them in everything they did. He went to all of the kids' activities, school functions, and sporting events. He patiently helped them with their homework whenever they needed it, even after teaching all day himself. Every winter morning he brushed and scraped our daughter's car. He filled my gas tank, many times without even telling me. When our daughter had leukemia, he would take turns spending the night with her in the hospital so that I could get some sleep at home. He would get up very early, shower at the hospital, and go to his job 40 miles away. This continued for two-and-a-half years.

Charlie was always helping family, whether it was driving our son across country to his new job or helping our daughter move into her dorm. He helped his mother when his father had Alzheimer's, continuing to make the trek to Midland every month to help her with chores around the house. He was actually there the day before the accident. He helped my parents in Ann Arbor when my dad became weak and eventually died from prostate cancer by doing many of the outside chores. But he also gave to his community by helping neighbors and regularly giving platelets at the American Red Cross.

Charlie was a retired chemistry and physics teacher looking forward to many years ahead of spending more quality time with family and friends. Charlie was a methodical and careful person, who always followed the rules. He was wearing a helmet, reflective clothing and was riding on a wide shouldered road in broad daylight. It is hard to grapple with the fact that he lost his life because someone else was not paying attention.

It is time for Michigan to prevent some of these senseless deaths. Requiring education, safe passing lanes, and stiffer penalties for hitting and/or killing cyclists is a step in the right direction. I hope you will support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Warner