

Kerrville Daily Times

Letters for June 19, 2007

From Staff Reports

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Katie's dad talks about her law

To the Editor:

I just read your June 2 article on Katie's Law and I must admit that I was saddened by the misinformed comments of Mr. Miller. The statistical evidence gathered by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety and many other highly respected road and highway safety organizations overwhelmingly supports the need to provide the Department of Public Safety with the necessary tools to identify unfit elderly drivers.

The States have made great strides in putting safety laws in place for our youngest drivers (16-19) and the statistics support that these laws are working. The States have been remiss in putting safety laws in place for elderly drivers when the facts clearly support the need to do so.

If Mr. Miller needs to be shown empirical proof then please direct him to Katie's Web site at www.katieslawtexas.org and feel to pass this email address on to him. I can also supply Mr. Miller with the briefs that my wife Johna and I provided to our state legislators while lobbying for Katie's Law.

Perhaps Mr. Miller would feel differently if he, a family member, or one of his friends killed an innocent child like my 17 year old daughter Katie or anyone for that matter in an accident that was preventable.

People like Mr. Miller are the very reason why Katie's Law is so needed. These individuals do not understand that driving is a privilege and not a right. We as a society cannot depend on the individual or their families to take the keys away from mom or Dad when their driving skills diminish to the point where they become a danger to themselves and others that share the road with them. The State needs to become the first line of defense in matters of public safety and that is what Katie's Law is all about — for government at its very essence has a responsibility to protect all of its citizens including Mr. Miller!

Please let Mr. Miller know that Johna and I made a promise to our daughter Katie while she lay dying in intensive care at Parkland Memorial hospital of Dallas last year that we

would channel our ending grief into the better good through championing legislation that would spare other families from the heartache that we live with each and every day.

We will work to fine tune Katie's Law so that Texas becomes the model that all states adopt. That is our mission — a uniform driving standard across our nation!

If you could also let Mr. Miller know that we plan to work with the Department of Public Safety to ensure that the essence of Katie's Law is properly implemented. For the essence of Katie's Law is not to inconvenience our elderly drivers, but rather to ensure that they can properly operate a motor vehicle!

Rick Bolka, (Katie's Dad)

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