

Family Of Hopkins Student Hit By Car Speaks Out On License Extension

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Susan Cohen holds a picture of her son Nathan Krasnopoler outside a Senate Office building Tuesday. She and her son Elliot Krasnopoler testified against a bill that would extend the driver's license renewal period. (Photo by WBAL's Robert Lang)

It was February 26, 2011 when Johns Hopkins University sophomore Nathan Krasnopoler was struck by a car while he was riding his bicycle.

The crash occurred on University Parkway, near the campus.

The driver, an 83-year-old woman, was attempting to make a right turn, and turned into the bike path where Krasnopoler was riding.

Krasnopoler was severely injured and died in the hospital in August.

Krasnopoler's mother Susan Cohen, and his brother Elliot were in Annapolis on Wednesday to try to convince the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to reject a bill that would allow drivers to hold a license for eight years instead of the current five years.

"That law is going in the wrong direction. It is not going to make our roads safer," Cohen told WBAL News.

"We are trying remember Nathan by making these roads safer."

In this case, the driver involved was able to keep her license and keep driving for several months after the accident.

Cohen learned that the driver was still behind the wheel from Nathan's friends, who visited him in the hospital.

"It actually made me feel ill," Cohen added.

Cohen says that eight years is too long for people over 40 to hold a driver's license without some kind of regular testing.

Her family wants legislation to require competency testing for drivers. She said, the tests are now used by the Motor Vehicle Administration at the request of a driver or their family. She says the tests will determine if a driver's skills have deteriorated.

The family is also seeking a bill that would impose up to 8 points on the license of a driver who fails to call for help, if involved in an accident that leads to serious injury or death.