



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the Committee.

My name is Jennifer Ranstrom-Smith, and I am here on behalf of Representative Paul Evans, House District 20. Unfortunately, Representative Evans is not here today, but I hope these brief comments will help make the case for advancing HB 2522 to the Senate Floor.

This bill, offered in partnership with Representative Edwards, is as simple as it gets.

It is about safety. It is about doing something that we can do, now, today, to mitigate the loss of lives and property. If passed, the measure would require people to turn on their headlights, if they aren't automatic, when they turn on their windshield wipers. That's it.

HB 2522 is a straightforward, easy to implement, necessary step because of the harsh realities of living in a big state with challenging weather situations.

When it is foggy, rainy, and/or sleet influenced, the absence of lights is an obstacle to folks with imperfect eyesight. And, as we all get older, our eyes eventually become less able to see everything we once could take for granted.

Many vehicles already do this automatically, but many more vehicles, require some manual action to turn the lights on. This bill is about ensuring everyone is as visible as possible to ensure others see you. It is a preventative step that will undoubtedly prevent crashes, and it will more than likely save lives. Especially in places where variance in weather can make driving increasingly perilous.

In the end, this bill is an affordable, "closing the "gap" measure, that provides an aging population with a greater opportunity to travel safely.

Thank you for your time today.

Jennifer Ranstrom-Smith  
Chief of Staff  
Representative Paul Evans, HD20