

COHRAN-FURBERT "ON BEHALF OF MY SON" JAMES PARKER COHRAN TESTIMONY HRSB JAMES LAW

My name is Jackie Cohran-Furbert, a resident of Prince George County Maryland for 29 years. I'm here today in **support** of HB 1036/ SB 0844. I'm here as the **mother** of James Parker Cohran. I'm here as an **Advocate** for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers. I'm here to **share my testimony**.

HB 1036/ SB 0844 "Vehicle Laws - Commercial Motor Carriers - Safety, Maintenance, and Insurance Information (James's Law)" This bill requires employers of commercial motor vehicle drivers to provide a prospective employee with (1) the employer's safety record maintained by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (2) proof of insurance, including information on policy coverage. Likewise, a contract between an employer and a subcontractor must require periodic updates by the subcontractor to the employer regarding (1) safety records; and (2) proof of insurance.

This **bill** will promote transparency so that Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers can make informed decisions about whether they want to work for said employers. Another critical component of this **bill**, ..."An employer may not knowingly allow, require, permit, or authorize a driver to drive a commercial motor vehicle in the United States: ...during any period in which the driver, the motor vehicle he or she is driving, or the motor carrier operation, is subject to an out-of-service order...

On Sept 29, 2019, my only son James Parker Cohran died in a fiery crash on the NJ Turnpike. James was 30 years old and a loving father of four children. James was a licensed Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver. The impact on our family life is too painful to articulate. After his death, we learned that the company he worked for has a documented history of **safety violations, recurrent insurance cancellations**, and should have been **out-of-service**. The company is **out-of-service** as I plead to you.

Regardless of your profession, everyone is entitled to work in a safe environment or at least be provided knowledge if conditions are **not** safe. In the trucking industry, approximately 500,000 accidents resulting in 5,000 fatalities happen annually. This **bill** is important to ensure that my son death is not just another statistic. This **bill** will provide awareness, promote transparency, hold employers accountable for their failure to implement safety laws and is an educational opportunity to require the 16 CDL schools in MD to integrate education of this **bill** into their instruction program for student drivers.

In closing, (see attached Autopsy Report) 2 of

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EXTERNAL APPEARANCE:

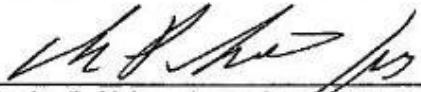
The body is that of a well-developed male, having an estimated height of 67 inches, and a weight of 125 lbs. who has a stated age of 30 years. The body is in a state of marked charring with no skin remaining except for on the right foot. The remainder of the body is charred to the muscle with areas of charring through to the internal organs on the anterior chest and abdomen. The thermal injury to the head and face is complete to the skeleton with fracturing and absence of the superior cranial vault with expulsion of the brain parenchyma. The distal aspects of the upper extremities are absent due to thermal injuries. The internal organs are in a moderate state of preservation with superficial charring where they would be in contact with the anterior serosal cavities.

Examination of the neck organs reveals marked soot deposition along the tracheal lining extending down to the bronchi.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Inhalation of products of combustion and thermal injuries

MANNER OF DEATH: Accident

Circumstances: Deceased was driver of tractor trailer that caught fire.



Charles F. Siebert, Jr., M.D.
Forensic Pathologist

Date 12-2-79

