



**Alex Otte**  
**MADD National President**  
**Testimony in Support of HB 967**  
**March 9, 2022**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for allowing me to testify today in support of HB 967. My name is Alex Otte, and I am the National President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

When I was 13 years old, I was run over by a drunk boater. I was sitting on a jet ski behind my dad's house on Lake Herrington in Danville, Kentucky. I had been on the water and had my boating license for years prior to this.

I was sitting across the narrow lake, about 40 yards, from my mom and my brother as they were docking our boat. I was waiting for them to finish so that I could dock the jet ski and we could go up to the house. There was a 17-foot bass boat coming under a nearby blue bridge, and I gave my mom a thumbs up to tell her I saw him coming and I wasn't going to move. I was on the right side of the lake, close to the rock embankment – so I stayed still and waited for him to pass.

The boat was headed towards my mom and my brother. My mom screamed, the boat banked it to the left and never straightened up. He hit me from the side going over 60 miles per hour, threw me off the jet ski, the boat went up over the jet ski and came down on top of my body before it sunk.

I sustained very severe injuries including a traumatic brain injury where my brain shook inside my head and started bleeding in four places, and they couldn't make it stop. I suffered a broken jaw, a broken neck, a broken collarbone, a lacerated liver and bilateral shattered femurs, because when I was thrown off the jet ski, I was holding on so tight with my legs (presumably because I was scared), that I took the handlebars with me. I now have metal rods in place of bone in both of my thighs.

When the boat came down on top of me, the propellor landed on my legs. My left leg was under the water just enough that it only required stitches, but my right leg was severed by the propellor.

The man who ran me over was three times over the legal limit, 2.5 hours later. He was charged \$250.

I had 8 emergency surgeries in the first 7 days, and many more in the years since.

I spent a week in a coma, several weeks in the ICU, a month in a neck brace and several months in a wheelchair. To no fault of my own, this was my new life. I have been asked a lot over the years if I could do that night over, what would I do differently, and the answer is nothing. I didn't do anything wrong. The only thing that would have changed that crash is if he hadn't been drunk.

HB 967 allows for BUI offenses to be counted toward anyone charged with a subsequent DUI offense for the purpose of determining certain enhanced subsequent offender penalties. HB 967 also increases the penalties for certain offenses of manslaughter and homicide by vehicle or vessel, a manner of holding further accountable those who make the deadly choice to drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving supports the legislation as it is an improvement to the impaired driving law.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, MADD urges you to please advance HB967.

Thank you.