



Illinois General Assembly

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Contact: Rep. Renée Kosel
(708) 479-4200

HOUSE PASSES KOSEL'S TAXI SAFETY ACT OF 2007 **(in memory of Frankfort resident Lyndsey Whittingham)**

Springfield...The House took action today to hold taxi drivers to a higher standard by unanimously passing the Taxi Safety Act of 2007, championed by State Representative Renée Kosel (R-New Lenox).

Kosel proposed House Bill 3412 after the tragic loss of Frankfort resident Lyndsey Whittingham, who was struck and killed by a Chicago taxi in October 2006. Whittingham was just 23 years old when she died. HB3412 will make drug and alcohol testing mandatory for a taxi driver involved in an accident with a pedestrian which results in bodily injury.

The taxi driver who struck Whittingham was not tested for drug and alcohol as currently the law leaves that decision up to the discretion of the responding police officer.

The new law will also require taxi drivers to display their identification in the vehicle, along with a phone number for passengers to report unsafe driving.

“This is a tremendous victory in promoting greater safety for those who choose to utilize public transportation. I wish to thank the Whittingham family for their courage in helping to bring this very important issue to my attention, as well as to the General Assembly,” Kosel said.

Lyndsey's parents, Dr. Raymond and Betsy Whittingham, had earlier testified before the Registration and Regulation Committee regarding the details surrounding their daughter's accident .

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“We want to thank Representative Kosel for sponsoring HB3412 and the House for passing it unanimously. Hopefully after it passes through the Senate and becomes law, there will be additional safety provisions for even greater protection for people using the taxi system. We hope by doing this in Lyndsey’s memory, we will be able to save other lives,” Betsy Whittingham said upon receiving the news.

“The Whittingham family has suggested many more ideas to improve taxi safety, including random drug and alcohol testing, maximum eight-hour shifts for taxi drivers and a one-year probation period for taxi drivers upon receiving their license. I look forward to working with them on this very important issue,” said Kosel.

This legislation will now head to the Senate for consideration in that Chamber.

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