

SB 332

My name is Nicole Allensworth, I am 45 years old and I live in Lawrence, KS. I'm in favor of this bill but we need to realize it's only a baby step to wear we need to be.

On June 10, 2015, I was texting and driving in a construction zone. Being distracted, I ended up over correcting myself resulting in a two vehicle car crash that ended up causing me a Traumatic Brain Injury. Thankfully there were no construction workers in the area and the man that hit me did not end up as badly as I did. For I could of ended up in prison for vehicular manslaughter due to distracted driving. I'm also thankful that my daughters were not with me, for I would not be here to share my story. The journey of my life has been completely altered.

Before my crash, I was attending school at Johnson County Community College, getting nothing but A's and B's, working on graduating with honors. I was also working part time, as well as raising my daughters as a single mom.

After my crash, I was hospitalized and in a rehabilitation center for a total of 27 days. I went through therapy for 4 years due to the physical and learning disabilities caused by my Traumatic Brain Injury.

Thankfully I have been able to return to work. Today, I am a cognitive and behavioral therapist for Minds Matter LLC.

I understand and acknowledge the increase in distracted driving and the harm it can cause not only to the driver but to everyone else in the crash. I'm also aware of the ripple affects it causes not only to family but also to friends. For I have lost the connection with both due to my car crash.

I may be 45 years old and 39 when I was in my car crash, I am in support of this bill. Even though the bill is for those under 18 years of age. I think that it's a start in the right direction. We need to remember distracted driving doesn't only happen in certain locations but it also does not have an age limit to those that it affects.