

Dear Legislators,

Around 3 years ago I was driving to work just like any other day. Among the other cars during the commute was a truck carrying an unsecured load. I had no idea the impact that truck was about to have on my life. That truck's unsecured load suddenly came straight towards me at highway speeds. I don't remember much about what happened next. I remember there being trash, and bits of wood but the biggest object was a trash can. The kind you put at the end of your driveway and it was going to come through my windshield. The next thing I remember is being in the emergency room and a police officer trying to ask me questions. I was told that my car rolled four times and that the fire department had to cut me out of my vehicle because I was trapped. I had broken bones, countless bruises and cuts but what nearly killed me was a massive blow to my skull. I had brain bleeding both on the outside and inside of my brain. Did you know that bleeding on the inside of the brain has a survival rate of just 30%? I survived those odds but not without consequence. I have never been able to find the right words that would describe how a brain injury feels. I can only tell you the things that I suddenly could not do. I couldn't walk across a room without falling over, I couldn't hold a fork or brush my hair, I couldn't tell my parents that I loved them because so much of my ability to communicate was damaged. It's been years and I'm still in therapy. I've been fighting for so long to get back what I lost and for what? Because someone couldn't be bothered to secure their load? The worst part about that day was that the driver never stopped. They left me there to die. They left deciding that my life was worth less than all that trash.

Having a traumatic brain injury has drastically changed my life. I fight every day to get better. That driver is responsible for what happened to me. Their actions ripped away my ability to be a person. To walk, have a conversation, even to hold someone's hand or hug them. Years to get back the simplest of things that are simple yet so important. They could have spent five minutes to make sure their load was secured but they didn't. They didn't even try and that five minutes not spent I have paid for with the rest of my life.

A person chooses not to secure their load just as a person chooses to get behind the wheel of a car drunk. Both drivers don't leave with the intention to harm

anyone but the negligent choice was made because it took less of their time and was more convenient even though that choice put others at risk. This bill will educate and remind every person how dangerous an unsecured load really is. This bill will protect everyone in this room and every Alaskan in this state and will hold these negligent drivers accountable for a choice that has hurt and killed so many people.

I ask with all I have in me that you help me make this change, help me change a law that could not protect me and cannot protect you or anyone you love unless there is change. What happened to me was entirely preventable. I will never get justice for that day but I can fight for change with your help. I see unsecured loads every day. I know in my heart that this change is right and is needed and I hope that you see that too and help me make this possible. I am very grateful to be here today and I thank you for reading my story.

Sincerely,

Kelly Roy  
Anchorage, Alaska  
03/06/18











