

STATEMENT

BEVERLY TAYLOR

JULY 12, 2004

When I was asked to be at this press conference, I knew I wanted to be here for my daughter, Lauren Braddy. When I was asked to speak, I was afraid to attempt it. Because of the Braddy-Lancaster Foundation and its supportive network and to honor Lauren and Christin Lancaster I decided I had to speak. Through this foundation we are working to bring about positive change and safer highway standards.

As difficult as it is to speak about Lauren's accident, it is nothing compared to the unimaginable pain I struggle with waking every single day hoping I have had a really bad dream and then realizing I really have lost my daughter. I still have a hard time believing she is not here.

Lauren was killed, March 28th, 15 weeks ago, yesterday, trying to avoid a whole piece of retread. As a result, her SUV rolled over twice and the roof collapsed on her. Her friend, Christin, was ejected and killed. Lauren was buckled and going the speed limit. The result of her accident could have been prevented.

Knowing that there is legislation pending in Congress, that would provide the necessary safety standards needed to prevent rollovers, ejections, and reduce roof crush, I owe it to other moms and dads to do everything I can to make his legislation happen. Hopefully, other parents will not have to suffer this constant hurt in their heart from losing their child.

I can not imagine why anyone would question the need for this legislation, so I can not understand everyone not joining in this effort to convince Congress that these safety standards are imperative and we should not have to wait any longer for these important changes to be made.

Thank you.