

My name is Sarah Samborski-Batora. I am here with my 10 year old daughter Madeline, my parents Steve and Beth Ziembra and my in-laws Ken and Joan Samborski. My family is here today to ask for your support of House Bill 5664. The bill proposes to name a portion of I-96 in the city of Howell after my husband Mason James Samborski. Mason was a Public Safety Officer for the city of Oak Park. He was killed in the line of duty on 12/28/2008.

Mason was a good husband, father and a dedicated police officer. He knew that he wanted to be a police officer since he was a child. He was living his dream and took pride in protecting and serving his community. Mason and I grew up in Brighton and met at Brighton High School. After we got married, we bought a house in Howell where we still live today. This December it will be the 10th Anniversary of his death. The last nine years have been a tough journey for my family. We experienced a sudden tragic loss and still continue to deal with our grief. Our daughter Madeline was only 13 months old when he was killed. She has struggled with not ever really knowing her father and having him miss important events in her life. We try our best to show Madeline who her father was through stories and pictures. We are proud of Mason and want Madeline to be too. We believe a memorial highway and sign named in his honor would be another way for Madeline to remember her father and ensure that Mason will never be forgotten.

We believe that naming the portion of I-96 where Mason grew up and lived would be a great tribute to him. It would be a reminder to those driving on the highway of all the police officers that put their lives on the line every day.

I would like to thank Representative Wittenberg for his sponsorship of House Bill 5664 and all of the co-sponsors. We really appreciate your work in helping us honor Mason.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Sarah Samborski-Batora