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Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.

I am writing in to urge you to vote yes on these school bus safety measures—not just as a concerned community member, but as someone whose life has been forever changed by a preventable tragedy.

School buses are often called the safest form of transportation for children, and in many ways they are. But "safe" does not mean immune to failure, and when failures occur, the consequences can be devastating. Safety measures are not overreactions—they are protections for our most vulnerable population.

This issue is deeply personal to me. A dear family friend, Simon, was killed at just five years old in a tragic accident involving his school bus. Five years old. He was excited for school, full of life, and trusted the systems and adults around him to keep him safe. His death was not the result of recklessness or wrongdoing on his part—it was the result of gaps in safety that should never exist.

No family should have to experience the pain of losing a child simply because safeguards were insufficient or outdated. No family should send their child to school wondering if they will come home. And no community should accept that these tragedies are "rare" enough to tolerate.

Improved school bus safety measures—whether they involve better technology, clearer protocols, increased training, or stronger accountability—are not burdens. They are lifesaving tools. If even one child's life can be saved, then these measures are not only justified, they are necessary.

Simon and Brayden should be here today. They should be growing, learning and laughing. We cannot change what happened to them, but we can honor their lives by ensuring that other children are protected in ways he was not.

I ask you to vote yes—not just for policy, but for prevention. Not just for statistics, but for children. Please choose safety, responsibility, and compassion.

Thank you for your time and for taking this decision seriously.