

## Creating seat belt laws makes a lot of sense

I am writing in support of Megan's Bill - Senate Bill 7. Seatbelts not only save lives, they also prevent injuries. Because I chose not to wear a seatbelt while riding in the backseat of a car in the fall of 1991, I had to live with the consequences of my choice for the rest of my life.

Because I chose not to wear a seatbelt when our car was hit by a semi-tractor, I now live with a traumatic injury to the left and front lobes of my brain. In one instant I became paralyzed on half of my body and experienced memory loss of my entire major at college.

By God's grace, I've had a remarkable recovery. I graduated from Ball State under a new major, have a full time career as a commercial insurance underwriter, have a wonderful family of my own and live a full, active life. While my life has been very blessed, my two unbuckled sorority sisters sitting beside me died in the accident. The force from the semi flipped one upside down and broke her neck. Had she been wearing a seatbelt, she would still be alive today. Two buckled-up sorority sisters in the front seat walked away from the accident unharmed, as they chose prevention.

Senate Bill 7 makes sense. It saves lives/injuries, lowers the public's cost for insurance - not to mention saving taxpayer's money to cover medical expenses of those who have sustained injuries such as mine.

Darcy Keith  
Noblesville

tions for you. First question: what makes that excerpt a lame response? Like WW2, we were attacked, and America responds militarily with what we have. We have more military capability following 9/11 than Pearl Harbor, but the fact remains that we are discovering where the inadequacies are in the course of the war. Second question: Why not quote all of Secretary Rumsfeld's response, or at least place it in proper context?

### On Darcy Keith's letter, "Creating seat belt laws makes a lot of sense," from Dec. 16,

Ed said:

You cannot enact laws to instill good sense. Nor can you pass laws to enforce morality. Law or no law, I

wear my seat belt. My vehicle is exempt, but I still wear the seat belt.

Ken said:

Ed, I live in Pennsylvania and we do not require seat belts for trucks, buses, vans or SUVs. We do require infant seats be belted into those vehicles however. It is illegal to ride in the back of an open vehicle like a pickup truck. Is that still legal in Indiana?

Ron said:

Ed is right. Laws will not instill good sense, but laws do, in fact, cause the vast majority of people to comply. Bottom line: When more people wear seat belts, fewer drivers and passengers will die. Additionally, less money will be required to pay for the dead or disabled. If that doesn't help convince you, how about the fact that the federal government will release almost \$17 million annually in

## OPINION

highway funds to Indiana when we join the 48 states who do have a sensible seat belt law. How special it is to be the only state teamed up with Georgia to allow SUVs, pickups, and vans to be exempt from the seat belt law? (That was sarcasm).

Anne Morgan said:

Seat belt use should use should be left to the person that bought the car, that pays the upkeep on the car, the insurance on the car etc. When will all this end? You have cyclists out there unbelted that can be thrown and killed. You have a law stating that I have to wear a seat belt, yet you can have kids crammed in the back of a pickup truck. You have 50-plus kids on school buses unbelted. Yet in the car that I have paid for, the one that I pay to insure, plate, maintain, etc., I am told to wear a seat belt or else pay the fine.