



January 7, 2020

Greeting [REDACTED]

Subject: Gold Star Mom Seeking Reform

[REDACTED], thank you for the great work you are doing and will do in the future, I stand with you from the great state of Texas. I am writing because Gold Star mom Tracy LaPorte contacted me on December 26, 2019, seeking help and reform due to the loss of her son Sergeant (Sgt.) Adam Cody Huckstep. This Gold Star mom reached out asking for help and stated "Having my son killed kicks and twists you inside out and kills who you were." With such a message, I could not delay acting. As a Veteran of the U.S. Army and a father, I can't imagine the pain, but I have a charge to help relieve it to the best of my ability!

Sgt. Huckstep had already completed a combat deployment to Iraq and was preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as an infantryman/gunner from Ft. Stewart, GA. Unfortunately, Sgt. Adam "2Step" Huckstep Sgt. Adam "2Step" Huckstep, 23, died tragically the evening of February 1, 2012, when a car made a left turn in front of his oncoming motorcycle in Long County, Georgia. Adding to this loss was the fact that the driver of the car was in a *Rental Vehicle* and was operating it with a suspended license.

[REDACTED], this tragedy could have been prevented if this person were not driving with a suspended license and the latter would not have happened if Rental Car Companies were required by Federal Law to conduct Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) checks before allowing individuals to rent vehicles. Although this Gold Star Mom reached out to one Congressman, she did not find a resolution. It's been a few years since Sgt. Huckstep's tragic and untimely death, but the passion to ensure it was not in vain continue to burn for Ms. La Porte

You have an opportunity to help this Gold Star Mom, as I am attempting to do and I pray that you will act swiftly. On her behalf and Sgt. Huckstep, I am requesting the following legislative action to rectify this issue and close the loop-hole which allowed this tragedy to happen.

Enact a new law for *Rental Car Companies* making it mandatory to conduct Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) checks before allowing individuals to rent vehicles. Ensuring they account for the following:

- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has a valid license that is not currently suspended, expired, revoked, canceled or surrendered.
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has not, within the last 36 months, had 1 or more convictions for reckless driving.
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has not, within the last 48 months, had 1 or more convictions for driving under the influence (DUI), driving while intoxicated (DWI), or driving while alcohol-impaired (DWAI).
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has not, within the last 36 months, failed to report or leave the scene of an accident.
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has never been in possession of a stolen vehicle or used a vehicle in a crime.
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has not, within the last 24 months, had 3 or more convictions for moving violations (including seat belt violations).
- Ensure the renter/authorized driver has not, within the last 36 months, had 3 or more accidents.

[In 2019, Rental Car Companies had profits totaling over \\$45 Billion](#), so, though it may cost them some additional time, this should not have a huge impact on their revenue, especially if it can save lives such as that of Sgt. Huckstep, and ensure we don't have anymore Gold Star Moms such as Tracy La Porte, under such conditions!

Sgt. Huckstep, fought for our freedoms in a foreign land and made it back safely, only to be killed on U.S. soil. Please stand with me, as I stand with this Gold Star Mom to ensure the memory of her son and one of our Nation's heroes did not die in vain. Move this legislative request forward and in honor of him, if possible, call it the 2StepAct in remembrance of this Hero, gone too soon!

Humbly,

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