

## **STATEMENT OF SHARON R. SHORE**

**June 23, 2020**

### **Press Teleconference on Motor Vehicle Safety Title of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2)**

My name is Sharon Shore, and I have a story to tell.

On May 8th, 2019 my brother entered our parents' home in Bellevue, Nebraska. We believed mom and dad had been on a two-week cruise to Alaska to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday. David was preparing for their expected return. My parents, Thomas and Ann MacKinnon, were found dead on their bedroom floor. They were dead for almost two weeks, it was tragic, it was a horror scene, and they didn't deserve to die this way.

It was determined their 2017 Hyundai Tucson had been left running. The house filled with Carbon Monoxide as the engine ran through an entire tank of gas and the battery died.

I began to research. I became angry with what I discovered. Their car had technology offer a supposed convenient feature known as a keyless ignition or push button start.

There have been approximately 40 known deaths and approximately 50 permanent brain injuries due to Carbon Monoxide or Rollaways – risks posed by keyless ignition technology. This issue reaches far beyond “forgetfulness” and people continue to die.

Just in my home State of Nebraska, a man and his granddaughter perished just weeks before my parents. A young mother and her two teenage sons almost succumbed to Carbon Monoxide poisoning just months after my parents died, when one son left his car running in the garage. Thankfully they survived but have a lifetime of worry about their long exposure to this poison.

The PARK IT Act was introduced in the House by Congresswoman Schakowsky just weeks before my parents died. Once I learned of this Act, and its potential impact on saving lives, I pursued my state's representatives gain their co-sponsorship. I first went to a Town Hall meeting by Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, who was the first to co-sponsor the bill. I had a successful week on Capitol Hill in August of 2019, spending long days walking the halls of the House and Senate office buildings, knocking on doors, and talking to Members of Congress and their staff. My commitment will not stop until this legislation, which requires a standardized solution across the automotive industry of just a few lines of code, is enacted.

I was very close to my parents. We spoke often, I saw them regularly, and we had plans. It NEVER gets easier to speak of their deaths, but I know in sharing their story, lives will be saved. I miss them every day.

No other family should mourn the loss of loved ones; No other family should have concerns about the risks of long-term exposure to Carbon Monoxide poisoning. I am a daughter, who

misses her mom and dad, and I know telling their story has already saved lives and passing this act will save countless more.