

The **Association** report

from the **Capitol**

February 5, 2019

Distinctly different proposals regarding highway worker safety were heard in successive weeks in Missouri House and Senate committee hearings.

On Thursday of last week (Jan. 30), the House Transportation Committee heard a bill that would require automatic suspension of a driver's license for a driver whose car strikes a MoDOT worker. Several witnesses spoke at the hearing on [HB499](#), including a family member of Lyndon Ebker who was killed in an April 2016 accident on Highway 100 in Franklin County. The victim's daughter described how an elderly, sight-impaired driver sped through a work zone and struck her father. She said the driver kept his operator's license despite the dire circumstances and his impairment.

A number of persons testified for [HB499](#) including MoDOT Director, Patrick McKenna. The committee did not vote on the bill which is sponsored by Rep. Aaron Griesheimer. Mr. Griesheimer's father, former Senator John Griesheimer, worked with the Association on several issues, including efforts to strengthen our retirement program (MPERS.)

In the week preceding the House hearing on [HB499](#), the Senate Transportation Committee heard [SB15](#) which would prohibit persons of all ages from using cell phones while driving. The sponsor of that bill is Sen. Wayne Wallingford. I represented the Association by testifying "in support" of each of the bills.

From Harry Hill, Lobbyist
Transportation Employees' Association of Missouri