



Connor's Law – Rep. Dave Taylor (R-OH)

Main Message:

It is common sense that if you want to drive large trucks on our nation's roads, you should be able to read and speak English. A basic understanding of English is crucial to understanding important signs such as "Slow Down, Accident Ahead." Unfortunately, Democratic administrations have sought to remove these protections at the expense of American lives.

In 2017, Connor Dzion was killed in an accident by a distracted truck driver who was also found not to be able to speak English and read signs warning of upcoming traffic. Deaths like Connor's could be prevented by enforcing our nation's regulations. But, with Democratic administrations removing punishments for English Language Proficiency (ELP) violations, Congressional action is needed.

Connor's Law would codify President Trump's Executive Order, requiring all CDL holders to be proficient in English. Additionally, if a CDL holder is found not to be proficient in English, they are removed from service.

Background:

49 CFR §391.11(b)(2) was initially enacted in 1937 with the establishment of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). This regulation created general qualifications for commercial motor vehicle drivers. Among these qualifications were that drivers "can read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records."

Unfortunately, in 2016, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration released guidance titled "English Language Proficiency Testing and Enforcement Policy MC-ECE-2016-006," which removed the requirement to place drivers out of service for (ELP) violations. This memo allowed drivers who create safety concerns to drive freely on our roads, without fearing removal.

Bill Description:

Specifically, *Connor's Law* would:

1. Codify ELP into law as a requirement for individuals issued a commercial driver's license, and;
2. Puts those who violate the ELP requirement out of service.

Supporting Organizations

Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), Small Business in Transportation Coalition (SBTC), and American Trucking Association (ATA)