



Testimony of Dave Stevenson

New England Safety and Legislative Director, SMART-TD

In Support of H8296

I'm here today in strong support of H8296, which would remove train crew names from police reports after a trespasser is struck by a train.

These incidents are deeply traumatic for our members, who are often forced to act as first responders and attempt to render aid. The majority of these tragedies are suicides, where individuals—unfortunately—choose to involve train crews in their final moments. Crews are powerless to prevent these events, yet they carry the emotional burden and long-term effects, including stress, PTSD, and serious impacts on both job performance and personal life.

Including crew members' names in police reports—and later, in news articles—has led to harassment and threats from families and friends of the deceased. Depending on how the article is written, it can even give the false impression that the crew was at fault. There is no valid reason this personal information should be made public after such incidents.

H8296 offers a simple, compassionate solution that protects railroad workers' privacy and mental health without compromising transparency or investigative integrity.

I urge you to support this important legislation. Thank you.

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