

Mourning Father Lobbies for Drivers Ed Classes

He's a man on a mission. A father who lost his daughter in a car crash is lobbying state legislators in Ohio to pass a bill that would help raise money to have drivers education classes in every high school.

200 students at Medina High School have already reaped the benefits of Ray Sanderbeck's pain.

He's responsible for getting four driving simulators, at a cost of \$10,000 each, into the school. It's his way of making sure other parents don't go through what he's had to endure.

"I crave every day to be able to see my daughter just one more time. I would give anything in the world just to see her for one more moment," he said.

Ray's 15-year-old daughter, Michelle, was killed March 4, 2006 when the teenage driver of the car she was in lost control around a curve in Montville Township and crashed.

If Michelle had lived she would've turned 19-years-old on April 17. Instead of celebrating his daughter's birthday Ray taught students how to be responsible drivers.

Sarah LaGuardia, a freshman, said of the week long drivers ed class: "It teaches you that you're not invincible to everything and that you need to be cautious."

To help schools in Ohio fund such an expensive project, Ray has come up with an idea and it's already taking off in the form of House Bill 133, which was just introduced in Columbus this week as legislation.

Ray says, "It's a specialty plate. It's going to have MStar (which stands for Michelle's Leading Star), teen drivers education and for everybody that purchases a plate \$10 will go into a treasury fund."

Ray and his students will be lobbying legislators in hopes of getting the bill passed.

If Ohio's one million drivers purchased a plate, \$10 million dollars would be raised for drivers ed courses like the one he teaches as a volunteer.

Emily Chinchar, a freshman, says, "He didn't have to do this but he did it to keep us safe."

"If every school has this in their school system a lot of kids would be better drivers, more accidents wouldn't happen," said Caitlin Terrell, a freshman at Medina High School.

6,000 teens are killed every year in car crashes nationwide. Ohio is the 5th leading state for teen accidents.