

Statement of Renee Rose in Response to Rose's Law

The following is a statement given by Renee Rose on the steps of the Colorado state capitol in response to the Allen Rose Tow-truck Safety Act (aka "Rose's Law"). If passed, the law will allow tow truck drivers to place a sign on the side of a vehicle that is about to be towed alerting the owner/driver of the vehicle that attempting to drive away while a car is being towed is a criminal offense. Mrs. Rose's husband, Allan Rose, was killed earlier this year after hooking up a vehicle for tow when police say the car owner drove off to avoid getting towed. Mr. Rose got caught in the cable and was dragged to his death.

First, let me take the time to thank the wonderful people that have taken an interest in my family, and shown us so much love and compassion during this difficult time. I have been shocked, in a positive way, by the tremendous outpouring of support by the people of Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins and across the entire State of Colorado. Words cannot express how much that support has meant to my family. People across this State have given their time and resources to support us and help us get through this horrible tragedy, and it means so much to us to see that so many people care.

I would like to thank a few people today specifically for their love and support. First, I would like to thank my good friends, Toni Neikirk and Melissa Gaines. We have been friends for years, and they have been there for me, for Michael and for Tiffany every step of the way. Without them, I'm not sure I would have been able to make it through this. I would also like to thank all of the tow truck drivers that gave up a day of work and gave up a day of earnings to form the procession and attend Allen's Memorial Service. It was truly an amazing sight to behold, and it meant so much to us that total strangers would be willing to do that and show us their support. I would like to thank John Stellabot. John was Allen's business partner, and he has been tremendous throughout this whole ordeal, despite how much he is hurting. I would like to thank the Texas Roadhouse, which organized a fundraiser for our family. You certainly did not have to do that and I can't tell you how much we appreciate it. Finally, I want to take a minute and thank Allen for everything he meant to me over the years, and for everything he did for our children. He was a tremendous husband and a loving father....a partner to me, and a model for Michael and Tiffany. Allen, we will never forget you, we will never be able to replace you, and we love you so much.

We are here today to talk about the Rose Law, which was conceived by Mike Baier, and sponsored by Senator John Morse. I don't know Mr. Baier, which makes it all the more amazing that he was concerned enough about this situation, and about our family, to take the time to think of something that could be done. It is my understanding that the law will require tow truck drivers to place a decal on any vehicle they are towing. At that point, it would be a crime for the vehicle's owner to attempt to enter the vehicle and leave the scene. I support this legislation 100%, and I am thankful to both Mr. Baier, Senator Morse and the Colorado Legislature for working tirelessly to get this law passed.

In 1981, when President Ronald Reagan was shot, his Press Secretary, James Brady, was paralyzed in the attack. Brady became an ardent supporter of gun control, and worked tirelessly for years to enact legislation for stricter gun control. He continues to do so, even today. In 1993, as a result of his efforts, and the efforts of many others, the Brady Bill was signed into law by

President Bill Clinton, making it much more difficult to purchase handguns illegally. That bill has without a doubt saved countless lives in this country since it was passed.

So often, it takes a tragedy to inspire change. I lie awake at night asking myself and asking God how this situation could have happened. I know that there is nothing that I, or anyone else can do to bring Allen back. I know that there is nothing that will heal the hole in my life right now. I hope and pray, however, that this law will spare another family from having to go through what we have gone through. I am hoping that Allen's death, as tragic as it has been, can be a motivation for change. If this law saves even one life, it has been worth it.

Again, thank you Mr. Baier and Senator Morse for your hard work. You have my support and my thanks for the difficult job you do.

Thank all of you for coming out today, and thanks to everyone across this State who has been there to support our family during this horrible time. It means so much to us. Allen, we love you, and you will always be with us.