

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Joy Rindels-Hayden and I live in South Minneapolis. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SF 2910.

My accident happened at 3:40 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2017. I was coming home on the bus from physical therapy. My bus stopped at 38th and Chicago, and I was getting off the bus to make a transfer. Because of the timing of the buses, I didn't have a lot of time to make a transfer. The bus stop is near a convenience store. The store's parking lot and gas pump areas were cleared of snow, but much of the snow was piled on the sidewalk.

I use a walker. The bus driver used a hydraulic ramp so that I could get off of the bus. The ground was covered with snow, the sidewalk wasn't cleared properly, and the ramp wasn't on the sidewalk. I stepped out, lifting my walker's front wheels. The back wheels got caught. I pulled and pulled. Suddenly the wheel came free came over the top, and I fell backwards and landed on Chicago Avenue.

The injury caused me to lose consciousness. I sustained a brain bleed, and had an ischemic stroke. The stroke affected my speech. I was very fortunate that my speech and my cognitive abilities came back.

I spent 17 days in the hospital, and had to undergo rehabilitation. They wanted me to stay another week, but I didn't have the money for that.

Walker users such as me could face similar situations moving forward because of the angles of the ramps. This incident did not need to happen. I have partnered with the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance to include training for bus drivers to increase passenger safety, especially in inclement weather. That is what this Bill does and I hope you will support SF 2910.

The accident has had a deep impact on my life. I am here because this accident was preventable and I want to do everything I can to keep it from happening to anybody else.

Sincerely,

Joy Rindels-Hayden