



## **New Jersey Republican Assemblyman Kip Bateman Introduces Legislation Designed To Protect Drunk Drivers - Proposed Legislation Outrages Victims Families**

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New Jersey ([PRWEB](#)) June 20, 2005 -- New Jersey Republican Assemblyman Kip Bateman (R-Somerset and Morris) plans to introduce legislation designed to protect drunk drivers. unofficially known as the Drunk Driver Protection Act, the legislation would eliminate the right of most victims of drunk driving to collect against the drunk drivers who hit them, outraging victims and their families.

This bill was proposed at the urging of Big Insurance companies in response to the New Jersey Supreme Court's unanimous decision in DiProspero and Serrano, which stated that those who sue must have a serious injury. This legislation would bring back the old, subjective serious impact on the life test to automobile crash lawsuits.

"This very subjective test has allowed hundreds of victims of drunk driving to be thrown out of Court without justice, even when they have serious, permanent injuries," said Ricky Bagolie, a Jersey City lawyer that represents victims of drunk driving.

The current test is that the victim of drunk driving must demonstrate he or she has a permanent injury. This showing must be supported by the certification of a physician, made under threat of criminal sanctions, and based on objective clinical evidence.

Bateman claims his bill will keep insurance costs down although he cites no proof to substantiate his claims. In fact, New Jersey insurance company profits are the highest in the nation and calls for an audit of insurance company books have met with resistance.

"Assemblyman Bateman is putting the profits of his insurance company campaign contributors over the victims of drunk drivers. It is an outrageous Bill with absolutely no proof that it will reduce insurance costs and cannot be allowed to pass," said Bagolie.

Victims' families are asking that Bateman withdraw this legislation immediately and invites Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) as well as the concerned public to contact Assemblyman Kip Bateman at 908-526-3600, as well as their own representative, to tell them victims' rights outweigh insurance company profits and to vote no on this Bill.

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