

Good Morning,

I am Tiffany Schwab, the widow of Jake Schwab, a 48 yr old Mass Transit bus mechanic that didn't deserve to lose his life so tragically to a work-related accident. Prior to the accident, he was a 27 year Class A mechanic who had extraordinary skills and who you could count on to get the job done every time.

On November 4th 2014 I rec'd a call from EMTA personnel at approximately 11:00 am. It was a phone call that I will never forget and that changed my life in such a horrific way. From that moment on the things his family and I had to go through were almost unbearable as I'm sure others who have lost a loved one would understand. I remember there was one thought that repeatedly entered my mind for the days to follow.. "Not now, not this way." That statement continued to haunt me for a while. I decided that I needed to do whatever I could to make this right in some way. I searched for answers to try to grasp what had just happened to us.

While working on a bus, Jake was forced to improvise due to the lack of proper equipment and faulty equipment. The bus shifted and part of the air ride suspension flew out and struck Jake in the head. After five days in the hospital, hanging on to every bit of hope we could, Jake died as a result of his head injury. For me, I knew he had already died on the floor of an EMTA garage. The more I tried to understand what happened, the more I saw there were flaws in the system. That's why OSHA needs to have the authority over public entities not just the private sector. The events that led up to the accident could have been prevented. Why was Jake's life cut short when he had been at the happiest point of his life? We were together for 10 yrs. We just built a house in March 2012 and just got married September of 2012. I remember thinking...we only got to celebrate two anniversaries. Anyone that knows Jake knows he was full of life and was always there when anyone needed him. No one can ever replace Jake and no one can fix the loss we feel. He was an only son, a brother, an uncle, a true friend and a beloved husband.

After the accident all I could think about was that no one should ever have to go through the pain his family and I went through. It wasn't supposed to happen and not that way. But this isn't just about Jake, it's about the safety of ALL employees. Please make all workplace organizations a safe environment for everyone by voting for this bill named after my late husband that the Union has worked so hard to create and that Pennsylvania representative Pat Harkins endorses. After all, don't you expect your loved one to come home from work just like I did? **"THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY. LET'S ALL BE A PART OF A VERY NEEDED CHANGE WHERE EVERYONE IS SAFE AND EVERYBODY'S LIFE MATTERS." VOTE FOR HB 1082**