

May 2008

From: Richard Eachus  
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Re:

**Statement of Richard Eachus Regarding S.1300 Aviation Investment and Modernization Act of 2007. Section 508. Increasing Safety for Emergency Medical Services Operators**

On September 29, 2005 my daughter Erin Eachus Reed, an air medical trauma nurse, was violently killed in a helicopter that plunged into Puget Sound, Washington.

This tragedy remains the most difficult and emotionally paralyzing thing that parents can experience. We continue to face daily the challenging echo of our initial thoughts in getting the news at 2:00am in the morning. "Could this have been avoided? Could we still have our child amongst our family? Could we still hear her voice and her testimony of saving yet another life by her chosen career?"

Erin was the oldest child and the keel of our family. She was our wisdom both medically and relationally. Erin always kept the panic level at a two instead of a ten in her career and in her personal life. This unique gift she shared with her family, wisely helping each of us settle any crisis. How do we do live without her? She was passion and compassion as a daughter, sister, friend and nurse. We are lost.

Senator Cantwell (D-WA) introduced S. 1300 Section 508 in memory of Erin, her crewmates and the hundreds of others whom lost their lives in preventable air medical accidents. I want to urge you, in memory of my daughter and the many lost lives of air ambulance accidents to pass Section 508 of Senate Bill 1300 which includes safety measures that may have saved my daughters life, and will ultimately keep others flying in safer conditions.

Now as a resident of Hawaii, I am faced with the knowledge that many in my adopted state have suffered the same fate as my daughter. Air medical accidents have killed nine people in Hawaii since 2004. I urge you to hardily stand behind Section 508 of Senate Bill 1300 on the floor of the Senate.

My daughter, Erin, saved hundreds of lives by choosing to be an air medical flight trauma nurse. Not only have we lost her but the world has lost an amazing woman of courage, tenacity and compassion. Please let Erin's legacy continue by passing this legislation.

Richard Eachus  
Father of Erin Eachus Reed (1957 – 2005)