My name is Barbara Hurst. My life and those of my husband, Jon, and our son, Spencer, were changed forever when our only daughter and Spencer's only sister, Natalie, was killed in a tragic car crash in Dear Parents and Teens, 2010 in which she was a passenger. Natalie was a beautiful 15-year-old girl with many wonderful dreams and a bright future. A sophomore at Hoover High School, she was a vibrant student, aspiring dancer, beloved daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and a cherished friend. This is truly a parent's worst nightmare and there are no words to express the devastation and heartbreak that our family suffers every day. Her family and friends will miss her for the rest of their lives.

We hope to prevent other parents from facing this tragedy. Therefore, we feel compelled to educate parents and teen drivers on the importance of the Alabama Graduated Driver License Law.

The Alabama Graduated Driver License Law was passed in 2002 and refined in 2010, 2015 and 2017 to keep teen drivers safe on our roads. Yet many parents and teens are unaware that this law exists! Knowledge of this law is only the first step in achieving teen driving safety, but it is the responsibility of parents and theirteen drivers to educate themselves about it.

The next step is to follow the law. Parents and teens must share conversations and keep an ongoing dialogue to increase awareness and strengthen our Graduated Driver License Law. This crucial conversation must start at home. We urge parents and teens to follow these important steps in order to accomplish the ultimate goal of preventing teen injury and death due to automobile crashes.

Our hope is that every parent and their teen driver together take the time to read, understand, follow and share with others the Alabama Graduated Driver License Law. By doing this, we hope to save many lives and make a difference out of this tragedy. When we lost our precious Natalie, Jon and I promised to be forever dedicated in the quest to keep our teen drivers safe on the roads.

Please be proactive and help in the effort to reach this goal. We ask you to do this in loving memory

of our Natalie. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darbara Shurt

Barbara Hurst

Natalie Hurst was a passenger in a car crash in 2010. She was just 15 years old when she died.