

LET ME START BY THANKING ALL OF YOU FOR BEING HERE THIS AFTERNOON.

WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE I WANT TO INTRODUCE, SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF I MISS ANYONE.

MRS. PATTY COHEN, AARON COHEN'S WIFE...

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

WE HAVE AARON'S PARENTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF AARON'S FAMILY THAT HAVE FLOWN IN ALL THE WAY FROM ILLINOIS...

ENDA WALSH WHO WAS RIDING ALONGSIDE AARON...

GOVERNOR SCOTT...

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI...

SENATORS DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA AND GARCIA...

REPRESENTATIVES NELSON AND GONZALEZ...

OUR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOSE "PEPE" DIAZ AND XAVIER SUAREZ...

DEAR FRIENDS...

WELCOME ALL OF YOU!

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THERE ARE FEW BETTER PLACES FOR CYCLING THAN SOUTH FLORIDA...

JUST LOOK AROUND YOU!

OUR GREAT WEATHER AND NATURAL BEAUTY MEANS WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CYCLING OUTDOORS ALL YEAR ROUND.

AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT OUR STREETS AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES...

YOU SEE CYCLISTS ALL OVER OUR ROADS, FROM FAMILIES OUT FOR A RIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CYCLISTS.

IN FACT, WE HAVE A MIAMI-DADE NATIVE RIDING IN THIS YEAR'S TOUR DE FRANCE WHO TRAINED ON THIS BRIDGE.

MIAMI-DADE HAS A VERY ACTIVE CYCLING SCENE, AND AS THE NUMBER OF CYCLISTS HAS GROWN AND BIKES SHARE THE ROAD WITH MOTORISTS...

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT CYCLISTS AND OTHERS WHO USE OUR ROADS CAN DO SO SAFELY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE COLLISIONS THAT RESULT IN HIT AND RUNS, WHERE THE MOTORIST WILL LEAVE THE SCENE OF THE CRASH.

FOR THE LAST YEAR ON RECORD, FLORIDIANS SAW NEARLY 70,000 HIT AND RUN CRASHES.

THE AARON COHEN ACT PUTS TEETH INTO THE LAW AGAINST HIT AND RUN DRIVERS.

IT TELLS MOTORISTS THAT WE ALL SHARE THE ROAD...

AND IN FLORIDA, IF YOU LEAVE THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT, YOU WILL FACE REAL CONSEQUENCES...

IT ALSO SERVES AS A TRIBUTE TO AARON'S LEGACY WHOSE FINAL RIDE WAS ON THIS VERY ROAD, THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY.

IT'S A CAUSEWAY BRIDGE ON WHICH I'VE CYCLED MANY TIMES...

AND ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR CYCLING SPOTS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

THE ACT HELPS PROTECT THE "VULNERABLE ROAD USERS..."

THE CYCLISTS, PEDESTRIANS, EMERGENCY SERVICE WORKERS, AND OTHERS WHO SHARE THIS AND OTHER ROADWAYS THROUGHOUT OUR STATE.

WE ARE STANDING VERY NEAR TO THE "GHOST BICYCLE" THAT REMINDS US OF AARON AND ALL THE CYCLISTS WHO USE THIS ROAD...

WE CAN PROVIDE SOME COMFORT FOR AARON'S FAMILY AND HIS FRIENDS THAT HIS PASSING WAS NOT IN VAIN.

I WANT TO THANK THE BILL SPONSORS, SENATOR DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA AND REPRESENTATIVE NELSON.

I WANT TO THANK COMMISSIONER PEPE DIAZ FOR CHAMPIONING THIS EFFORT HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ARE HERE THAT WORKED ON GETTING THIS BILL PASSED.

AND A BIG THANK YOU TO GOVERNOR SCOTT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN WORKING TO KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS, AND FOR MAKING OUR STATE A SAFER PLACE FOR ALL.

PATTY, ENDA, AND TO AARON'S FAMILY, THANK YOU SHARING THIS MOMENT WITH US...

AND PLEASE KNOW THAT CYCLISTS THROUGHOUT OUR STATE WILL NOW BE SAFER BECAUSE OF AARON AND BECAUSE OF YOU.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

