



*BEFORE I became a parent. Now, I look at things differently.*

*Now, I preach to my kids about the dangers of drinking and driving or getting in a car with someone who has been drinking. Now, I worry. Now, I release a breath I didn't realize I had been holding when I hear the garage door open and my teenage drivers are home safely. Now, I WANT DUI checkpoints. Now,*

*I would LEAD my child to a checkpoint if it meant saving their life or an innocent person's life. In searching the internet for information on a civilian's perspective on DUI Enforcement, I was shocked and disheartened at what I found. I discovered that checkpoints are only conducted in 38 states, the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. In 12 states, checkpoints are not conducted due to state law or Constitution (or interpretation of the state law or Constitution) (ghsa.org). I found pages of information on how to avoid checkpoints or what to do if you encounter one. One website I visited stated: "If the officer begins asking you questions such as, "Have you been drinking tonight?" immediately exercise your right for an attorney. You have the right to an attorney and you don't have to answer questions without your attorney present." (blog.lawinfo.com). Reading this made me think about law enforcement officials and what "roadblocks" they face. Law enforcement works tirelessly with state and local municipalities and engineers to improve our roads and keep us safe. There is an ongoing effort by law enforcement to increase DUI awareness and deter DUI motorists. The only roadblock that they should face should be at a checkpoint; the roadblock should not be with the civilians they are trying to protect.*

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