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## WXIN

### Calling for Action

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James Weaver is still in pain, physically and emotionally from a collision on State Road 37 in Madison County three years ago.

" High point of my life, my career I was doing what I loved, I was hit by a guy in a meat truck, an 18 year old kid reaching for his cell phone ." Weaver said.

According to Indiana State Police, in the last two years more than 2,000 accidents occurred on Indiana roadways with cell phone use as a contributing factor. There were more than 600 injuries and five fatalities.

State Representative Vanessa Summers has been trying unsuccessfully since 2001 to get her fellow legislators to approve a cell phone driving ban that applies to all motorists.

"Oh, they went civil liberties, they were adults they didn't need to be regulated any excuse you could come up with ," Summers said.

During the last session lawmakers passed a bill that will prohibit drivers under the age of 18 from using cell phones and other telecommunications devices while behind the wheel. But there are still no restrictions, not even a hands free requirement, for adults.

I think we started with teenagers because a lot of them are not going thru driver's education so that's part of an overall process to improve the quality of drivers on the road ," said State Representative Dennis Avery of Evansville.

Some states including California, Connecticut, New Jersey and Washington have laws that prohibit all drivers from using a handheld cell phones while driving. Dozens of other states have bans that apply to either new drivers, school bus drivers, or texting. James Weaver hopes that Indiana will someday change that law to apply adult drivers like the 18 year old who changed his life.

"How many more horrific events have to happen before we have a change ," Weaver said.

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