

To Whom It May Concern:

I have watched William Torch M.D. Ph.D. develop the optical stay alert system for over the last year. I am a person who has traveled over 30,000 miles in an automobile as a single driver in less than 6 months. I have a disabled spouse who is unable to drive. I have always had a problem with staying awake, no less alert, while driving a vehicle. Driving a vehicle is a very boring, monotonous task. I drive some days up to 13 hours without stopping after already putting in a full day of business, besides to fuel up or stop by a fast food restaurant to purchase food to go. Many people drive hours at night at the end of a long business day. The want to get home or to their next destination will override a person's good judgment of stopping for several hours on the roadside to take a nap. Having not to worry about the person staying alert in the other lane and making a fatal mistake would take great stress off many a driver. The business I work in is the exhibition of canines. We actually travel less than most of our colleagues. We try and travel in pairs, if not groups, for safety. I have followed a colleague, in his motor home, down the interstate and had to yell at him through the Citizen Band Radio to wake him up, because his wife had gone to bed, and he was about to hit a barrier. They were pushing to make it to a rest stop 30 minutes up the road for the night. We had already put in a 7-hour workday and had been driving for the last 8 hours without stopping. With the optical stay alert system that Dr. Torch has developed my husband and I would be able to travel with much greater safety. Since we live far away from friends, going to visit would be much freer. The need to worry about the time getting away from you while visiting would not be as relevant. As we all know, going from wide-awake to being sleepy takes only a moment, especially after the excitement of visiting wears off. In my travels I have seen many a professional driver weaving down the road.

My husband suffers from black out spells. I am unable to leave him alone at any time. With the optical stay alert system on my husband I would be free to leave his side. Yard work had to be hired since I am unable to be outside away from my husband. There are days that my husband is in so much pain he is unable to sleep, which means I do not get to sleep. With the optical stay alert system, I could lay down and know that the optical stay alert system alarm would awaken me if my husband blacked out. The possibilities are endless with this wonderful invention. It could be hooked up to call a pager, telephone a neighbor, engage an outside ringer, hooked up to an intercom, etc.

For someone disabled it could open a world of being able to do for themselves instead of being dependant upon someone else. With the correct computer and program they could blink Morse code to type a letter, send a note to an alphanumeric pager, even call an emergency agency. It could alert a caretaker that their patient was having seizure. Someone suffering from narcolepsy could drive a vehicle to spell the regular drive napping next to them. The alarm would be loud enough to wake the sleeping driver in case of a narcoleptic attack. Someone who is totally disabled and unable to communicate (a quadriplegic mute) could now feel

like they are a worthwhile person. They would have always been a worthwhile person, but they are not capable of voicing their thoughts, advice or even interjections. They would now be able to tell someone what they want or need. Even more importantly tell a Doctor or E.M.T. what was ailing them.

I would personally buy at least 2 of these units. One to put on my husband and the other for myself. As a person who not only falls asleep while driving, I like to watch television in bed. The problem being is that I am visually required to wear glasses. If I fall asleep while laying down I bend my frames. It then takes several days to rebend the earpieces to the correct position so they do not hurt my ears or bridge of nose. Dr. Torch has made several different prototypes for his optical stay alert invention. He has made a lightweight clip-on unit for people like myself who are required to wear glasses. This simplifies access to the unit. I would be able to clip it on my regular glasses, or my prescription sunglasses. I would be able to put the unit on whenever I wished.

The possibilities for this optical stay alert unit are endless. Ship navigators could be required to wear one of these units. Think of the environment. Less oil ships spilling their crude oil into our already polluted oceans because the pilot/navigator had gotten tired and was not as aware as they should be. A student could use this when studying (cramming) alone. Air traffic controllers, pilots and their navigators all could have this unit built-in their headset. Heavy machinery operators could have the unit built-in their hearing protector headphones. Motorcycle helmets could have them installed on their visor. All in all this is a most worthy invention. It would help people from many different walks of life. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimonial on the stay alert optical unit that Dr. Torch has designed.

From Karen Schembri