

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1995 at 1:08 am was one of the happiest days of our lives. This was the day we welcomed our first born daughter, Reagan Delaney Tokes into the world.

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at about 8:00 pm was, and always will be the worst day of our lives. This was the day we received the phone call that our beautiful, kind, loving, vibrantly full of life daughter Reagan was found shot to death at Scioto Grove Metro Park.

Reagan was a beautiful person inside and out. She loved life and all those in her life immensely. She was 33 days shy of turning 22 and 3 months shy of graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in psychology. She was going to continue her education by obtaining her master's degree. Ultimately she would pursue the career path she had chosen, opening her own practice as a psychologist. A career which spoke volumes of the kind of person she was. A career in which she would dedicate her life to helping those who have personal challenges/issues, learn to improve their situation. This is who she was at the core of her being, benevolence leading the way, someone who deeply loved and cared for others with a zest for life that is apparent in the radiance she projected. This is the way she lived her life up until it was taken from her.

The information surrounding this tragedy we would be made aware of over the next 24 hours was the most horrific communication no parent could ever, in their worst nightmare, conceive they would be hearing. To learn what happened to our daughter, the graphic details of the evil that was unleashed upon her and to have the reality sink in that she was gone is beyond unbearable. We will never be able to see her vibrantly full of life again, laugh with her, kiss and hug her or continue to watch her grow and experience the amazing life she still had before her. There were so many firsts still to come. This pain is something I can't even put into words. No one person should ever have to experience what she did and no parent or family should ever have to live it for the remainder of their time on this earth. Reagan did, we are, and it is so wrong.

It is especially wrong due to the flaws and failures with the current laws and practices of the State of Ohio. This is where the responsibility lies for what

happened to her along with the evil that inflicted his presence and violence upon her. Her alleged attacker has a very lengthy violent criminal history and violent prison record. This history should matter and it should come with additional consequences, not rights and freedoms with no boundaries. The way the current laws exist, his violent behavior while incarcerated had no consequences, nor did his repeated violation of parole. He never should have been out on the streets and he especially should not have been out there unmonitored, but he was. He was and because there were no consequences and he knew it, he continued to wreak havoc on the streets and assault the innocent until he allegedly committed the most violent assault yet, the one in which our daughter would suffer through hours of unimaginable terror and ultimately lose her life. She was left in a field naked, naked and shot twice in the head on a bitterly cold night. She laid there for 12 hours before someone found her frozen, lifeless body.

Do you know what it is like to sit here, knowing this to be factual and to have lost what we have in the manner in which we did? I am sure none of you do, but try to imagine being in our shoes for just a second, I guarantee you it is shoes you never even want to get near, let alone walk a mile in. These are the shoes we now walk in however, this is our present and our future, and it is a living hell. You don't have to walk a mile in our shoes to make a difference, each one of you has the ability to do something right now that will make a difference, you can vote in support of the Reagan Tokes Act so the current flawed laws and practices in the State of Ohio change. Voting in support of this change could prevent another family from sitting before you in the future, pleading for action as we are, to what is so obviously broken. Don't allow the cycle to continue.

If an inmate can't conduct themselves properly and follow the rules while incarcerated-the one very place that attempting to reform is of the utmost priority, it should count. If they don't or won't, there should be consequences that are significant. What kind of message is being sent to criminals, when in the one very place they should be following the rules to the precise letter of the law and attempting to reform, has zero repercussions if they don't? What is the incentive to attempt to become a better person and try to learn to live as an appropriate functioning member of society? There isn't one because there are no

consequences for continuing to choose the wrong path. Then to add insult to injury, the way the current laws exist, regardless of your incarceration conduct, when the date on a calendar rolls around, the doors open and away you go with basically no supervision, no monitoring in real time, and no substantial accountability to a parole officer due to caseload level etc. Seriously, I can't even believe this is what is in place in the State of Ohio, especially being that it is 2017 and significant technology exists to support the above mentioned yet it isn't being used and this is the way it has been for years and no one has done anything about it until now. Our daughter lost her life over this flawed system. This is now our reality that will never go away, change or get better for us. How many others were there before her and how many will follow if something isn't done immediately?

The time has come to act and that time is long overdue. Please choose what you know is right, exercise the authority to make a difference, granted to you by the citizens of Ohio who elected you to office and vote in support of the Reagan Tokes Act. This failing, flawed system can't be permitted to continue. Innocent, law abiding, tax paying citizens are suffering at the hands of violence that has no business on the streets, let alone being out there with no guardrails and parameters. Yes, we understand that there are budgetary issues that will need to be addressed to incorporate this bill. As tax paying business owners and homeowners in the state of Ohio still, even though we now reside with a permanent residence in Florida, we know there are funds to work with; we pay our taxes as do many, many other Ohio citizens. Current funds need to be looked at with a discerning eye to make sure that the use of tax payer dollars is being spent on the most important agenda's that will make a difference. A difference which could potentially save a life vs. losing a life to violence and evil that is being unleashed on an unaware, unsuspecting population. I guarantee that most of the public thinks like we did until this happened to us. The average person thinks the laws in place protect the innocent and that there is appropriate, real time monitoring and consequences for those who have chosen not to abide by the rules and laws of this state. And yes, appropriate conduct is a choice, that is the beauty of living in America, we are granted freedoms and choices. If a conscious

decision is made by an evil perpetrator, that results in an innocent person suffering an invasion of person or property, pain, injury or violence at the hands of the perpetrator, there should be stiff consequences to the perpetrator. Furthermore, if someone is already incarcerated for the above mentioned and isn't appropriately following reform protocol, there should be additional consequences. If release is granted, monitoring in real time that is effective should happen and the privilege of freedom immediately revoked if violations occur. Maybe if all of the above were true and current, our story would be different and we wouldn't be sitting here.

Is there a price tag too high to pay to protect the life of someone who positively impacts and influences society? I am certain none of you have to guess what our answer is to this question. What would your answer be if this happened to you or your loved one?

Our daughter Reagan had her whole life in front of her to look forward to. She contributed to this world in a positive way and her life mattered. She mattered. She was a gift from God, a daughter, a sister, a goddaughter, a granddaughter, a niece, a cousin, a friend. There is a permanent imprint on the hearts of many lives she touched during her short time on this earth. As a governing body, please do what is right to honor and protect what matters, innocent lives. Take back the power from violence and evil that is knowingly, currently in control in this state due to flawed laws and system failures, be part of the change that will save lives.

Thank you for your time and attention.