

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Tammy Jenkins and I am the grandmother of Jacob Alan Barker. Jacob was two years old and the light of our lives. He had a smile that would light up any room and a personality that was like no other. He was perfect.

When Jacob was injured our world stopped. The next day, August 9, 2015, when Jacob passed away, he took a part of us with him. Our family would never be the same again. These two days were hard enough to process and to get through. Then, to learn that we lost our precious Jacob because his mother's boyfriend had caused his death, by violently abusing him, was almost unbearable. The same monster that was at the hospital. The same one who tried consoling me when I arrived there by putting his arms around me and asking if I was okay. Later on, we found out that he had been charged and convicted of child endangering just a few years earlier, only to be released and murder my first grandchild.

This is the reason that our family believes so strongly that House Bill 612 is necessary. House Bill 612, or Jacob's Law, could potentially save lives, lives of innocent children who cannot defend themselves. Not only could it have made a difference in the outcome of Jacob's life, but it would be a tool for caring parents, grandparents, other family members, and even teachers and daycare workers to help identify those who are around our children and if they are at risk.

I am respectfully asking that you please consider this important bill. If there's a need for any registry at all, I believe that this is this one.

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you all very much for your time and consideration.