

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

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak in front of you today. My name is Jesse Alan Barker. I am the father of a beautiful two year old little boy named Jacob Alan Barker.

Jacob was and always will be our heart and soul. Jacob was murdered by his mother's boyfriend. On August 8, 2015, I got the call that forever changed my life. I was told that Jacob was at Dayton Children's Hospital because he had supposedly choked while in the care of a monster named Justin Payne. Of course, we rushed to the hospital right away. After multiple tests they discovered that Jacob had brain swelling and it was not consistent with choking. He stayed in the ICU until the the next day when he was declared brain dead. We then had to make the decision that no parent or family should ever have to do. When Jacob died, a huge part of our family died.

During the time that Jacob was in the hospital, Justin Payne was charged with murder. We also found out that he had a past, a horrible past. Apparently, he had just been released from prison for after serving a sentence for child endangering after he fractured the skull and broke multiple bones in the body of an infant. Our family has been struggling with this whole nightmare on a daily basis. No one should ever have to watch their baby take its first breath when its born then watch them as they take their last, especially when their premature death is caused by an adult! Had I known of Justin's past, I would have done everything in my power to have kept him from entering into Jacob's life. This brings me to the reason I am here today. I am begging you to please consider House Bill 612, also known as Jacob's Law. My family, and everyone else we have come in contact with, agrees that this bill is necessary. It would give people more of an opportunity to know who our kids are being subjected to and could have possibly saved Jacob's life. We take this very serious and hope that you will too. We are losing too many precious lives to these monsters who are repeat offenders. This will at least give us a tool to know who they are so that we can keep them away from our children.

No amount of words can describe the pain and heartache that myself and my family endures every single day. If I can do something to prevent another family from going through it, and if Jacob's Law could save just one innocent baby, then it's all worth it.

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you all for your time and I appreciate your consideration on this bill.