

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide a testimony in support of the House Bill 612 also known as Jacobs Law.

My son Jacob barker was a remarkable and astonishing child. He was always so happy and would make anyone smile by making silly faces or just by hugging anyone. When he was only two years, two months and seven days old, my son Jacob was ripped away from me forever. Since August 9th, 2015 at 2:12pm when Jacobs heart took its last beat, my life was filled with sadness and pain for the grieving of my son.

As a parent, when googling someone to find information on them, the only information provided on the internet is a person's social media accounts. Also, unless a person went viral on the internet, nothing will pop up regarding someone's past.

When wanting to do a background check on someone, almost every single website will ask you for money ranging from a fee of \$15.00 to \$50.00. Many sites will even say pay \$1.00 now and in two days have unlimited access for \$29.97 for a full month or .99 cents a day. This should never be the case. Why do we have to pay to know someone's background? Why do I have to pay to know if someone is safe to have my children or families safe around? We as humans should be able to fully protect our families and children from harm and danger. This information should be open to the public regarding a person's background. That alone could save so many families and children. But the main issue could be fixed by having a registry for offenders of child abuse, neglect, endangering and assaulting of a child. This database could be open to the public and it would be utilized tremendously.

I am asking as a mother and as someone that wants to help to prevent another family knowing this tragedy. Acknowledging there could be a registry for child offenders would help bring some relief of justice for Jacob. This pain will never fade, but I know deep down that Jacob would be so happy and proud for the steps being taken to help other families and children from feeling this agonizing pain that stays with us forever. To know we can save even just a child from a repeat offender's hands, is a relief of its own.

I ask you all to please consider making House Bill 612, also known as Jacob's law, into a working and successful registry. There are so many people out there hiding and hoping others don't find out about their past and so many that are around children as we speak, that could be in danger.

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, I appreciate your time and willingness to listen to my testimony. I hope and pray that the outcome will be successful and save as many other children as possible. Not a day goes by that I don't wish there was something available like this registry before Jacob was killed by a repeat offender, something that was available to myself and our families that allowed us to know what kind of person he truly was.