

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee,

My name is Amanda Hannen and I am the mother of Jacob's two younger brothers, Jonah and Aiden. I also helped take care of Jacob from the time he was 3 months old up to the time of his passing in August of 2015. Jacob was an amazing big brother to Jonah after he was born that April, and unfortunately did not get to meet Aiden. When we had Jacob every other week, he would always help me with Jonah. Jacob was my big helper, and anytime Jonah made a noise, Jacob was coming to check him. Jacob would bring him blankets, toys, pacifiers, or simply just talk to him and love on him. It absolutely breaks my heart that Jacob cannot grow up with his brothers and also his siblings on his mom's side. They will never play on a sports team together, go to school, ride bikes, learn to drive, be each other's best man, or countless other things brothers and sisters do growing up together.

I am here to not only speak on behalf of Jacob but for his brothers who will have no memories of their big brother. We talk about Jacob every single day, have his pictures hanging all around the house, and do things to remember him throughout the year. But I am here to plead with you to help us pass Jacob's Law so no other kids have to go through what Jacob and his brothers have gone through. Right now, it is very hard to even try to look up someone's criminal past and we need to change that. For countless families looking to bring someone into their home to be around their children, whether it be a new significant other or even a babysitter, they need to have a way to look up anyone to see if they can or will be a danger to their children. We all need to protect all children in whatever way possible we can. We do not need to have something else happen like what happened to Jacob. He, along with his siblings, are victims of something that should have never happened and we can help prevent this from affecting countless other lives again. So please help us in fixing this horrible epidemic of child abuse and keep previous offenders away from children. If this law would have been in effect, it could have saved Jacob's life since the person responsible was a convicted child abuser.

Chairman Blessing, Vice-Chairman Reineke, Ranking member Clyde, and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, I thank you for your time.