

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

From:
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6125 Belleair Place
Cincinnati, OH 45224

To:
The Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony in **Support of SB 256**
Regards Sentencing Offenders Under 18 When Committed Offense

In this world that we are born and die in, are “Innate Laws”. These Laws never change, and mankind didn’t bring them into existence; nor can mankind exist without them. One of the many “Innate Laws” is, “Babies; Butterflies; Bees” Without them mankind has NO FUTURE!

A very wise saying from a renowned book in history says, “...Are those who know equal with those who know not? But only men of understanding will pay heed” (Qur’aan, Chapter 39:9).

AsSalaam, Greetings and Salutations, Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and other members of our esteemed leaders.

I humbly stand before you, this morning pleading on behalf of those who have not the understanding, were not shown the understanding, nor have they had time to gain the understanding to become “those who pay heed”.

This Senate Bill, “SB-256” represents them and so does my story concerning my son, who was “set upon”, June 28th, 2015 and died June 29th, 2015. Three assailants, a 14-year old, a 16-year old, and a 25-year old (adult) lead boys to committing a heinous and merciless crime.

My name is Rukiye Zathra Abul-Mutakallim. And I am the proud mother of Suliman Ahmed Abdul-Mutakallim. He “is” a Navy Man of the United States of America (I refuse to refer to my son in the past tense. His spirit is still among us).

I could continue with my son’s story, but that is not the only reason why I am standing before you. If, you wish to know more about my story, you are welcome to meet with me in a more personal sitting, and/or go onto the websites in my written testimony.

You may also read, my story in a book I co-authored called, “Loss, Survive, Thrive” by renowned trauma therapist, Meryl Hershey Beck.

When the day came to face at least two of the assailants, to my surprise, they were babies, not men, but babies! Questions arose in my heart, “how did children get a gun in their hands; what happen to them to cause them to act in such a manner; how did they loose the light of hope, happiness, good will, mercy, that children are born with; what environment has killed their spirit of love and honest behavior? The stronger the questions rang in my heart, the more I knew I needed to find the answers, and I did!

Our communities have an infection, a disease, if you so will, called trauma. Trauma begets crime, and the repeat of trauma begets the repeat of crime. This disease like any other disease needs antibiotic and probiotic like actions in our legislation and community

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projects, like “The Flowerpot Project” to eradicate this infection that is killing, especially our children from all walks of life.

I’m here to resound in humble and certain voice that showing “true forgiveness, true mercy and doing actions of good, is the antibiotic and probiotic formula that will stop the pandemic of trauma that is effecting our communities across the nation, which is still increasing.

SB-256 is one of those legislative Bills that is directly addressing this very truth. It aims to guide us to saving our future. All children are the future of mankind, that is an Innate Law. Our present-day legislation has been burying children alive, which in my soul, I know is very wrong.

Children are not born with guns in their hands. They are not born lying, stealing, cheating, hating, using bad language, etc. They are born with light in their eyes, hope in their hearts, happiness in their voices, and a curious mind. We did not put that in them, but we are the ones taking it out of them. Instead of our children reaching for the universe so they can catch a star, they are reaching down to pick up “weapons” (which come in many forms) to harm themselves and/or others.

I end this testimony, reminding this honorable Committee that “we the people” elected you, because we considered you as “men and women of understanding that pay heed”. This innate law, “children are the future of mankind” is a truth that cannot be changed. SB-256 is a Bill that represents that understanding.

No one can say which child, from which part of our human existence will be the next “Noble Peace Prize Winner” or discover the cure of a disease. It is our responsibility to teach them, all of them, how to reach for the universe, so they can catch that star. Not to traumatize, nor continue that traumatization by burying them alive, in prisons, or otherwise. That is a crime that we must put to an end.

This is my pledge to SB-256 and all of life on this earth:
“I pledge to stand forth as a constant reminder to myself and others to bring light, beauty and truth. To unify, honor and ignite a beacon of hope and goodwill across our neighborhoods, our communities, our cities, and our nation. Wherever there is despair, hopelessness, oppression, fear, injustice and humiliation. I will be that lighthouse directing all toward safety and justice until acts of tyranny reign no more; not even for one of us --- One for All and All for One”!

I’m now opened for any questions you wish to ask me.