

Judy Rafferty Testimony

In 2006 my son Andy Chapman went missing. I don't know if there was any protocol or process in place for finding a missing person. I went to the police department to report him missing and waited and waited to hear back from the person who was working on his case. It was 4 or 5 years later that someone from law enforcement took a DNA sample from his Dad and I. Our DNA was sent to the coroner and held there waiting for a body instead of sending it to NAMUS. The Find act, Bill 217 will improve the handling of missing persons cases. Time is critical in solving these cases. The mandate that will require information after 30 days (not years) if the person is still missing to be entered into the NAMUS is crucial. Unidentified remains will also be easier to match. The Find act will help solve more of these cases and bring closure to their families. It's the not knowing that keeps us awake at night wondering what happened to our loved ones. I look forward to the bill being passed in the House.