

To Chairman Hite and the Agriculture Committee,

On July 12, 2015 my grandmother was the victim of a fatal pit bull attack at 3694 Pennington Road in Shaker Heights, Ohio. My grandmother was a beautiful, honest, hardworking, selfless and the most giving person I've ever known. My grandmother was also a child of God, very dedicated to her beliefs and because of this I tried to find peace within myself with what has happened. However, I have found it to be impossible for my loved one's and I to accept what has happened. My grandmother was killed doing something she did frequently and had just did two weeks prior, picking up her great-grandchildren. My family suffers daily from this tragic loss; my daughters Laniya and Alayah are embedded with the horrific memories of a pit bull killing their great-grandmother.

My daughters have experienced something no one should ever experience. They are scared of dogs, have trouble sleeping, they cannot play outside because seeing and hearing a dog terrifies them. Laniya has nightmares and cries all the time, she wishes so badly to forget seeing her great-grandmother bitten and killed by a dog that she now has thoughts of hurting herself to make it stop. Laniya draws pictures of what happened in school and home, she could not ride in the care because it was a trigger for her, she wishes she could forget seeing all the blood, and she wished someone did more to help her grandmother. Alayah has drawn pictures of the dog killing her grandmother and is so depressed she barely eats and has energy that an 8 year old should have, she has shut down emotionally in avoidance of remembering and thinking about what she saw; her great-grandmother being killed before her eyes. Laniya has been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder and Alayah with adjustment mood disorder and depression. My daughters may be in counseling and experience problems for the rest of their lives. My daughters

have been robbed safe and happy childhood by people that are supposed to protect and care for them; their father and grandmother.

My eldest daughter who was very close to her great-grandmother, she was with her the day before. Raiona cries herself to sleep every night and struggles daily with coming to grips with our tragic loss, and the memory of her bloody, lifeless body at South Pointe Hospital. I fight daily to hold back tears of hurt and anger, I try to remember her how she was but, all I keep seeing is the vivid images of her bloody head, her gauzed neck, and my bloody hands from hugging her while crying. These are images the I will never forget, not images of her laying peacefully from natural causes, heart attack, or stroke. But, very detailed and horrific images of my grandmother bathed in her own blood, from her being brutally killed, of her murder. I have days where I do not know how I am going to make it through from not being able to properly grieve and rid myself of the horrible images to watching my daughters hurt and breakdown everyday, watching their lives be destroyed....knowing that the only thing that will and can make it better is erasing what happened, my grandmother being alive again.

But, the reality is she is gone, we cannot bring her back and we will forever be without her...forever without the light of our lives. I blame myself for my grandmother's killing, for what my daughters are going through, for what my family is going through....why? Because as good of a mother as I like to think I am how could I not know of this vicious dog being there, how could I have never seen it when dropping off and picking up my daughters....but heck my grandmother did the same things and she and my little sister who also witnessed her death never saw this animal. But, it was my children she was picking up, I brought these people Bobbie Green and Leon Morton into our lives.....if I hadn't my grandmother would still be alive....but

if i hadn't we both my grandmother and I would not have our beautiful babies Laniya and Alayah that were the light of my grandmother's life.

I have come to find that this dog which Bobbie Green chose to keep at her home and she and her son Leon Morton cared for attacked a killed another dog they knew it was a vicious dog; and they both were well aware of it. Bobbie Green an elder, a 70-year old woman let this vicious animal live at her home and care for it knowing it could only be around and listened to her and her son; knowing that she kept a house full of children and grandchildren daily. Bobbie Green could have prevented horrific killing of my grandmother by simply not allowing the dog that she knew was dangerous to be at her home. Leon Moton could have prevented this by not helping care or this dangerous dog and suggest that it not be there. But, they both chose to care for it and hide it, knowing that it could hurt and kill anyone at any given time.

Since my grandmother's tragic death I have become overwhelmingly aware of the brutal attacks and killings of pit bulls. There were two horrific attacks in Ohio days following the death of my grandmother and continue to be attacks and deaths. Bobbie Green and Leon Morton were held accountable for their actions in the court of law but, because there is no legislation put in place requiring this they received only a slap on the wrist! Them choosing to keep and care for that vicious dog will haunt my family forever, my daughters forever. Bobbie Green should not have received a lesser charge and no jail time, for a death that took place on her property by a dog she helped care for. It is just as if she killed someone with a car or pulled the trigger of a gun; she helped unleash a animal she knew was dangerous on society, on my grandmother by housing and caring for it; by her and Leon being irresponsible and not properly securing this animal.

Bobbie Green and Leon Morton should both be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law for what they did to lead to my grandmother's death; but there is no law! They may not have meant for this to happen but it happened because of them and it could have been me, I was supposed to pick up my daughter's they could have saw their mother killed; or worse the children if they didn't know it was loose could have went outside to play and it could have been them; or a child riding their bike down the street. There is no justification or excuse to excuse their acts that killed my grandmother.

Furthermore, if Bobbie Green and Leon Morton did not intend on anyone or anything being killed; then why would they house and care for an animal that they both knew had killed and tasted blood before; and animal that they knew was a danger to anyone who was not them? That is like me having a gun in my home, but never intending on using it...when I know there is a chance I may have to use it, and I bought it to protect myself and my home. I aks the committee to please review, compromise, and pass S. B. 151 "Klonda Richey Act", to protect the people of Ohio and other animals from having to endure what my family is still enduring today!

Sincerely,

Tequila Ann Williams