

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kimberly Deer and I am Jacob's great aunt. Jacob was an amazing, smart, beautiful boy with a bright future in front of him. On August 9, 2015, our entire world was turned upside down. Jacob had suffered from blunt force trauma and was unable to recover from his injuries sustained on that day at the hands of Justin Payne. Undenounced to us, Justin had previously been convicted of another violent crime against yet another helpless child. Had we have known about the prior conviction our family would have never allowed our precious Jacob to have been left in the care of someone capable of carrying out such horrendous acts. This is the prime reason I feel HB161 is necessary to help prevent this kind of thing from happening to any other child or family. Jacob's death could have been avoided if we would have had the tools such as a violent offender registry for us to be able to search Justin Payne and his previous violent convictions.

All too many times, we hear on the news of these horrendous acts being committed against our most vulnerable population, our children. I feel it is even more important to pass HB161 now more than ever. With Covid-19, many daycares have been limited to the number of children they can now safely care for. That leaves some parents no choice but to leave their children with alternative childcare providers. Sadly, some of which the parents know very little about. With HB161 in place, we would then have the ability to research and confirm that these people we are trusting with our children are fit to do so. Unfortunately, our family cannot go back and change what has happened to our angel Jacob but with the passing of HB161 (Jacob's Law), we have the ability to make for sure that no other child has to die at the hands of someone who has already been previously convicted of such violent crimes.