

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chair Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. My Name is Randi Lamb. I am writing you about House Bill 161, Jacob's law.

I never got the chance to meet Jacob. I only get to see pictures and hear his family talk about him. When I look at pictures of Jacob, you can tell he lit up the room with his perfect little smile. When I hear his family talk about him, I hear the heartache in their voice. Jacob was a two-year-old boy who loved to run and play with his family. He had his whole life ahead of him but unfortunately his life was cut short not because he was sick or had cancer but because he was murdered. An innocent two-year-old child was killed by the hands of a 26-year-old man, who had a prior conviction of hurting another baby before he took the life of Jacob. How devastating is that! If we had House bill 161 on the books, then the family would have been able to look him up and know he was convicted of a child crime, maybe then Jacob would be here with us today.

Child abuse is a very touching subject for myself. I have a daughter who is 16-years-old who also was abused. At just 16 months old, a 21-year-old man shook her and then slammed her tiny head on a doorframe causing skull fractures and brain damage. My daughter will never grow from a child to an adult all because someone could not walk away from a crying baby. My daughter and I have spent 11 years at the Statehouse fighting for a child abuse law. In December of 2018, our law passed and was signed by the Governor, Senate Bill 20, also known as Destiny's Law.

We the people need to protect our innocent children from child abuse. We need more child abuse laws in place. I am asking you to pass House Bill 161. A child abuse registry that will help our future children is a much-needed law. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.