On June 16th, 2016 we experienced a parents worst fear. Our 4 year old daughter, Ailee Hayes was attacked and mauled by 3 - yes 3, Italian Mastiffs. We were having dinner at a friends house, the dogs were supposed to have been contained within an electric fence, but for some reason, the fence was not turned on. Something triggered the dogs to switch to "pack mode. The smallest dog weighed about 80 pounds and the largest was 120 pounds. Over 200 pounds of pure muscle, took down our 40 pound, 3 foot tall baby girl.

Our oldest daughter, Olivia was the first to see the attack and she immediately alerted my husband and I by screaming "the dogs are eating my sister." This still rings in our heads. Everything happened so quickly at that point and details are little blurry, but what I do remember is that we we ran the 15-20 feet to where she was, all we could see were her two little motionless legs - we thought she was dead.

My husband was able to pull her free while I called for an ambulance. She was covered in blood, grass, dirt and dog saliva. We had no idea how bad the damage was, but she was screaming, so at least we knew she was still alive.

Fast forward to the hospital. Our little girl was classified as a level 1 Trauma. She had a laceration from ear to ear across the top of her head and another laceration above her right ear that was about 5 inches long. her right cheek had 3 lacerations and several puncture wounds. The pattern was constant with one of the dogs having her head inside its mouth. Her right eye was completely swollen shut and there were puncture wounds right on her lower lash line. Moving down her body, she had a wound in the exact shape of a paw print on her right shoulder from where one of the dogs pulled her to the ground. She had a cut on the top of her right arm. Her right leg was probably the worst of it all. The best way I can describe how it looked was similar to a shark attack. The side of her right thigh was completely ripped open, you could see all the way through the muscle in her leg.

She was taken to emergency surgery where the team of doctors did the best they could to sew her up. She was in the operating room for 2-3 hours and we were told that they may not be able to close everything, but that they would try. She came out of the surgery with too many stitches to count - but from our best estimate there were over 350 stitches in her little body.

Thankfully she is now physically healed, but the mental injuries for all of us still persist. The whole family has gone through counseling for PTSD and Ailee's therapy has continued. She still has outbursts and flashbacks. For the first year she couldn't even be within 50 feet of a dog without becoming paralyzed with fear and breaking down in tears. Our daughter - who was always fearless, couldn't enjoy herself outdoors because she worried there might be a dog.

We share this story with you because there was no action that could be taken towards the dogs. It was left in the owners hands to decide what would happen. Our hope was that, in order to keep this from happening to someone else's child, they would have had the dog's euthanized due to the extent of the damage inflicted on our daughter. The attack was also completely unprovoked. They chose not to euthanize the dogs, and instead gave them away to other people. This is what hats us the most. The dogs are in new homes, the new owners may not know that it is unsafe to have them around children and something like what happened to Ailee, might happen to someone else's child. We wouldn't wish living through this on our worst enemy.

Our hope is that our story will encourage you to consider implementing the legislation changes introduced by Senator Beagle to enforce stricter consequences in the case of severe unprovoked dog attacks. Our personal ask would be that a dog would be euthanized after the first offense should the attack result in death or be considered severe, as in the case of our daughter.

Thank you for your time today.

Ian and Jessica Hayes, parents of Ailee Virginia Hayes.