



Volunteer Testimony

SB 646- SUPPORT
Child Access Prevention Public Safety - Access to Firearms - Storage
Requirements
Melissa Willey
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 20, 2020

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melissa Willey. I am here speaking on Senate Bill 646. Many of you know who I am. If you don't know me, you know my daughter's name Jaelynn Willey. She is the second oldest of 10 children, nine at the time of her death. She was a swimmer for club swim and high school swim. She loved her friends. She loved hanging out with her siblings. She had two cats, Twilight and Starlight, she slept with them every night. They would wait by the window until she came home every day. A lot of the time they still wait for her. Jaelynn was a kind sweet person. She loved going to the beach in Connecticut on family vacation. She loved school but hated to read. She was asked to prom Feb 13, 2018. She said yes to a young man who called her "JJ." He called her that because he couldn't pronounce Jaelynn. He was a foreign exchange student from Italy. She didn't get to go. She was murdered at school.

The shooter was a 17 year old. He had access to a gun he shouldn't have. Maryland's child access prevention bill only applies to children under the age of 16. The gun owner was not held responsible.

This has destroyed me as a mom, my children miss their sister terribly. My baby won't ever know her sister in a physical sense. She will only know her by pictures, my necklace, stories from what her sister and brothers tell her. She will only know Jaelynn from what we all tell her.

Seventy eight percent of school shooters under the age of 18 obtain the gun they use from their home or the home of a friend or family member. Safe storage can prevent these horrible events. I am requesting this law be passed in memory of Jaelynn and for Jaelynn. In hope that this never happens to another person again.