

Jacki Cosner  
In Support of SB870  
February 27, 2020

My name is Jacki Cosner and I am here today representing my daughter and son in law, Kayla and Daniel Amos. On February 14th, 2016 they went out to celebrate 6 months of pure happiness and love. A day full of remembering the first half of their first year of marriage and planning the future. They were just 21/20 yrs old and looking forward to revisiting the plans they had put on hold till just the right time. Kayla had just graduated from Liberty University Magna Cum Laude with a 4 yr degree she earned in 2 yrs with determination. Determination to start a life with Dan as soon as possible. Dan was pursuing his dreams and worked on the Arts worship Team at Chesapeake Church. But on February 14th Dan and Kayla did not come home. Their lives were taken and in just the beginning of a future filled with love from family, friends, each other and God above all. February 14, 2016, someone made a repeat decision that ended their lives.

After a night of indulging and no sleep, this person made the decision to drive and ended up hitting my children in a head on collision. Their car was flipped and both trapped. Dan died at the scene and Kayla was flown out. After finally making the 2 hr drive to Baltimore, we were pulled into a little room and told her injuries were not survivable. Severe brain trauma was the main injury and only medical science was keeping her alive. Nurses took us to her room and several hours later we made the decision to give her hand back to Dan just as we had done just 6 months earlier. Our world completely shattered and their future ended by someone that had an offenses in December, one in January and finally our tragedy in February. With basically slaps on the wrists, the impact was not effective enough to make her think twice about getting behind a 5000 lb weapon.

All of us miss their positive spirits and the way they lit up a room with smiles and giggles. As their parents we are blessed to hear people continuing to say, "I am striving to be more understanding, more compassionate, more patient, more kind, more rooted in my faith. I am striving to be more like Dan and Kayla." Dan always said, "Together or not at all." His motto for life and it has become our mantra as well. This is going to be a long and painful journey still, but through it all, our biggest hope it that Dan and Kayla's story continues to touch people's lives and that their mission of reaching people through Christ flourishes. We also hope that their story can help others here and now and prevent more heartache for other families.

Today I am asking that you made the amendment to Noah's Law so that the personal decision is no longer in question. The driver that killed my children was asked on February 12th if she had killed anyone yet because the friend knew she was not making good decision. Even that was not a deterrent. Its time to do the right thing. The needed thing. The "must" thing. Its time to save lives and the one it saves might be your own.

"Why am I still here? What is my purpose now? How can I make a change in my or someone else's life?" These are question I pray the person who turned our world upside down thinks about daily. I would not wish this new normal on anyone. Mine of grief or theirs of living with that night. But I also cannot sit back and merely hope they understand the magnitude of their decision. I am before you today, praying that your heart and mind "SEEK JUSTICE for your actions, HAVE MERCY for those still needing help, AND WALK HUMBLLY" as you make a decision that helps yourself and others see that no one is beyond the unthinkable. No one is invincible.