

My name is Sharon Moulton, and I am a firefighter paramedic with DCFD. I am submitting this testimony in support of Mason's Law, not only as a public safety professional, but as someone who was directly impacted by the tragedy that took Mason's life.

In our profession, we train relentlessly to save lives. We prepare for worst-case scenarios. We respond to chaos, danger, and heartbreak every day. But nothing truly prepares you for standing at the edge of a storm water-filled sewer system, knowing a child is trapped inside, and realizing that despite every effort, every resource, and every ounce of determination, you may not be able to bring that child home alive.

Rescue crews worked under extremely hazardous conditions — fast-moving floodwater, confined underground spaces, limited visibility, and overwhelming urgency. Every responder on scene was fully committed to saving Mason. The crews pushed through physical danger and emotional strain because that is what they do.

Yet sometimes, even when everything possible is done, the outcome is still devastating.

Failing to rescue a child is not something you simply move on from. It stays with you — in quiet moments, on future calls, and in your own family life. You replay decisions. You wonder what could have been different. You carry the weight of a life lost, even when the circumstances were beyond anyone's control.

Mason's death was not just a tragic accident — it was a preventable one.

Stormwater infrastructure is not designed to be entered by children, yet it is often easily accessible, unguarded, and invisible as a danger until it's too late. During heavy rain, these systems become powerful conduits capable of sweeping away adults, let alone children. Once inside, rescue becomes extraordinarily difficult and dangerous, even for trained professionals with specialized equipment.

Mason's Law represents an opportunity to turn unimaginable loss into meaningful change.

By improving safety measures around storm drains and sewer access points, increasing public awareness, and strengthening preventative infrastructure, this legislation has the potential to save lives — both civilian and responder. It can help ensure that no other family endures this kind of loss, and that no other emergency crew is placed in an impossible situation that could have been avoided.

As first responders, we accept risk as part of our job. What we should never have to accept is preventable tragedy.

I urge you to support Mason's Law. Do it for Mason. Do it for his family. Do it for every child who deserves to grow up safely in their community. And do it for the firefighters, paramedics, and rescue personnel who stand ready every day to protect the public — often at great personal cost. Thank you for your time, and for considering this important legislation

Respectfully,  
Sharon Moulton  
Firefighter Paramedic, DCFD