

In late July 2025, during a severe storm in Mt. Airy, Maryland, an 11-year-old boy named Mason lost his life in a tragic and preventable accident. Heavy rainfall caused flooding in his neighborhood. While Mason was playing outside, he became trapped in an uncovered storm drain and drowned. The drain had no protective grate, barrier, or blockage—nothing to prevent a child from being pulled in by rushing water. Had even one basic safety measure been in place, this horrific loss could have been avoided, and Mason might still be here today.

Mason was not a stranger to me. My best friend is his aunt, and our families are close. We were on vacation together when we received the devastating call. In the days that followed, we had to explain to our own children—who were similar in age—that their cousin and friend was gone. No family should ever have to have that conversation, especially over something so preventable.

The pain of Mason's loss will stay with his family and loved ones forever. Watching a mother, grandmother, aunts, cousins, and friends grieve the loss of a child who was simply playing in the rain is something I will never forget. Mason was doing what children do—enjoying a summer storm—when his life was taken due to a lack of basic infrastructure safety.

While nothing can bring Mason back, we owe it to him and to every family in our communities to make sure this never happens again. Passing Mason's Law is a critical step toward preventing another child from losing their life in the same way. We must take every action possible to ensure storm drains are properly secured and protected so no other family has to endure this unimaginable heartbreak.

Mason's life mattered. His death must lead to change.

Thank you!

The Bangh family