



*The Jesse Klump Memorial
Fund, Inc.*

P.O. Box 1786
Berlin MD 21811
667-227-9247

weremember@jessespaddle.org

www.jessespaddle.org

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House Judiciary Committee
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB 307 – Jaelynn’s Law

The *Jesse Klump Memorial Fund*, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation, exists to end the tragedy of suicide, to provide a place of healing for those who have lost loved ones to suicide, and to provide grants for training for healthcare and education professionals dedicated to suicide prevention and mental health.

The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund is pleased to support HB 307-Jaelynn’s Law– Storage requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention. Jaelynn’s Law would require guns be safely stored, locked and unloaded, and not accessible to unsupervised children under the age of 18.

Unfortunately, firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the United States. During the pandemic, firearm-related deaths increased among children with seven children per day dying by firearm in 2021, (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2021.) Jaelynn’s Law is critical to support Maryland’s youth and their families. The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Staff and Board Members know the tragic loss associated with firearm deaths in children, when Jesse Klump lost his life to suicide more than a decade ago. Without access to lethal means, Jesse’s life may have been saved.

At a time when three in five high school students report struggling with mental health issues, and one in five high school students are considering suicide, (MD-YPBS-21), Jaelynn’s Law is a critical tool to save lives. Maryland has a solid foundation to prevent firearm deaths but continued investment in common sense laws are needed to keep our children safe from unintentional injuries, suicide, and gun assaults. The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund **urges the Judiciary Committee to support Jaelynn’s Law.**

Sincerely,

Kim Klump
President,
Jesse Klump Memorial Fund

