

General Written Testimony: Utilize this template if you do not want to make your own response. There is power in numbers, so even if we send a hundred of the same letters, they reflect the level of support and importance of this bill. Thank you for your help and support for the life/memory of Nykayla! #JUSTICE4KAYLA

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February 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Jill Carter
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Carter et al.,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill SB0002, also known as the Child in Need of Supervision - Mandatory Petition (NyKayla Strawder Memorial Act). As a concerned citizen and advocate for the well-being of our community's children and families, this bill is crucial in ensuring that young children and their families receive the essential services and support when faced with tragic circumstances.

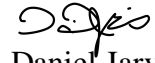
The summary of the bill highlights the importance of addressing situations where a child under the age of 13 years who is alleged to have committed an act resulting in the death of a victim. By requiring an intake officer to conduct a thorough assessment and file a petition in such cases, we can ensure that our children are not overlooked or left without the necessary intervention and support services. Additionally, mandating law enforcement officers to forward complaints to the Department of Juvenile Services ensures that these cases are processed promptly and effectively.

It is essential to recognize that when children engage in such serious incidents, there are often underlying issues that need to be addressed, including potential trauma, mental health concerns, or family dynamics. When exposed to such adverse childhood experiences without addressing the experience a child's mental model and world view is forever changed. Often resulting in further engagement with the criminal justice system. By intervening early and providing appropriate services, we can work towards preventing future harm and promoting the well-being of both the child and community.

I urge you to support Senate Bill SB0002 and prioritize the needs of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. By passing this bill, we can take a significant step towards ensuring that all children receive the support and services they need to thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Jarvis', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Jarvis, Ph.D.