

**HB937 – WORKGROUP TO STUDY YOUTH CAMP AND RV PARK EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS – ESTABLISHED**

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

FAVORABLE

Dear Committee members,

I am sorry I cannot be there in person today. I am reaching out to you today in support of strengthening laws to make summer camps safer. I lost my daughter, Katherine Ferruzzo, on July 4, 2025 during the floods at Camp Mystic in Texas. Katherine died a hero trying to save the lives of her campers. Katherine stayed with her campers as the flood waters rose which must've taken tremendous courage. Her death was heroic but 100% preventable.

Katherine, her co-counselor Chloe Childress, and 25 campers were failed by flawed policies, inadequate safety procedures and a severe lack of planning.

There must be advanced early detection of worsening weather conditions along rivers and lakes. Katherine nor the other counselors at Mystic had phones or even walkie-talkies. They had no way of knowing what was happening and nothing was communicated to them by the camp operators. They had no emergency plans either other than "stay in the cabin and wait for instructions". Camps must provide comprehensive training to counselors. They also need to practice emergency procedures in advance of an actual emergency.

Katherine should be a student at The University of Texas today. She was accepted and enrolled as a Special Education major in the college of Education there. Katherine was a fabulous daughter, sister, friend and student. She aspired to be a special education teacher to teach autistic students. Our family and friends are forever heartbroken that the negligence of camp operators lead to the death of our precious Katherine. It was entirely preventable. Please change Maryland law so that no families have to endure the pain we continue to suffer now.

Thank you

Andrea Ferruzzo