

Attention: Alonzo T. Washington,

Dear Society, Law Enforcement, Government Officials, Community Leaders, and Advocates,

On behalf of my sister, Tanishia O. Harrison, and our family and friends, I—Robin Dunbar, Aunt of Zoey Rose Marie Harrison—write to ask for your continued support in passing Zoey’s Law.

A careless and preventable act took Zoey’s life from our family. That single moment shattered our world. In the days and weeks that followed, we learned that this same type of reckless behavior has taken the lives of other innocent people in other families—families now navigating the same unfamiliar, painful territory we were forced into. No family should ever have to join this kind of grief-filled community.

The day we lost Zoey is the day our lives changed forever. While the pain may be most intense for her parents and siblings, grief is grief. We lost an innocent, resilient soul—an irreplaceable part of our lifeline.

At the time of Zoey’s passing, I was out of town. I cannot fully describe the anguish of being the eldest sister, the eldest daughter, and most importantly, Zoey’s aunt, and not being able to physically be with my family during the most devastating moment of our lives. For the past eight years, I have worked in pediatric emergency care. I have witnessed this kind of trauma impact other families, never imagining it would one day become our own story.

I have heard a mother’s wail before—but hearing my sister’s cries, knowing this pain was now ours, tore my heart open in a way I never thought possible. From another state, I tried desperately to help—alerting hospitals, reaching out to family, doing anything I could to feel connected and to protect my loved ones in any way possible. Even knowing that no one’s situation is “greater” than another’s, in that moment, my sister’s pain was my entire world.

This is why I say, without hesitation or doubt: Zoey’s Law must be passed. It is not acceptable for reckless behavioral choices to take innocent lives. Accountability matters. Prevention matters. Lives matter.

Zoey mattered.

Please stand with us. Stand with every family who should never have to write a letter like this.

Sincerely,
A Grieving Aunt,
Robin Dunbar

