

On April 22, 2018, my Husband's life was shattered forever. My husband's son, Matthew Murphy, was struck and killed by a man who overdosed on crack cocaine while driving. In an instant, a reckless decision stole a life that was deeply loved and full of promise.

Once again, this bill has been brought before the House. And once again, I find myself feeling disgusted and heartbroken that it has not already passed into law.

How many of you have had to bury your child because of someone else's negligence? I would bet not one of you. Because if you had to stand at your child's grave — if you had to visit that cemetery day after day like my husband does — this bill would have already become law.

Imagine every birthday.

Every holiday.

Every milestone.

Proms. Graduations. Weddings. Grandchildren.

All of it — gone.

Imagine never being able to hug your child again. Never hearing their voice. Never seeing their smile. That is my husband's reality. Every single day.

And yet the man who took Matthew's life — the man who chose to get behind the wheel while impaired — gets to hear his child's voice. He gets to celebrate birthdays and milestones. He gets to live a life that Matthew was denied.

He served just three and a half years.

Three and a half years for a lifetime taken.

There is no justice for victims and their families in sentences like that. To say I am angry is an understatement. I am outraged. I am devastated. And I am exhausted from watching families like ours beg for accountability.

When lawmakers vote against this bill, they are sending a dangerous message — that driving impaired and killing someone comes with little consequence. That a life is worth a mere slap on the wrist.

My husband deserves better.

But most of all, Matthew deserves better.

His life was worth so much more than three and a half years.

I urge you — vote in favor of Jamari's Law. Do it for Matthew. Do it for every family living this nightmare. Do it so that no other parent has to stand at a gravesite and wonder why their child's life wasn't worth more.

