

Ashley Crego

Below is a visual representation for the number of days since A.J. has been gone.

I know you "can't bring him back", as you've said so delicately stated in the past, but that does not mean there is nothing to be done.

Pretend for a moment that it was not dots on a page and it was someone you cared about, or your own child. Wouldn't you also be a little "angry and bitter"?

It has been 7 years, 6 months, and 16 days and we are still at square one, despite being very actively involved in advocating for change. The effort our family has put in is tangible and I believe this stagnation speaks more to the agencies and the individuals in charge of "overseeing" them than it does the families who write testimony and plead every time they come up here. There should not have to be another class action for this to change and it's disheartening because if A.J. were still here, he'd probably see you and thank you for your service—in part because he would've assumed everyone in Topeka is top secret military, but also because he may have thought the same way I did before I started attending these meetings— that these agencies and this committee actually helps kids like him.





