

PROPONENT, SB 85 -SIMON'S LAW

February 16, 2017

Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

Chariman LaTurner and committee members,

My name is Laurie Castellanos, I am a **lifelong Kansan** and currently reside in Overland Park, Kansas. I am a mother of two minor children, Ali and Trey. **I am also Simon Crosier's Aunt.** To this day, my heart is broken by the medical discrimination and the ultimate death of my nephew, Simon.

I am passionate about Simon's Law, which would prevent hardships and unjustified deaths of minors from having DNR orders placed in their charts. The law would guarantee parents as the final decision makers for any DNR that ends the child's life. After all, whatever happened to choice?

I understand that parents are emotionally connected and that is a very fragile situation. We as parents decided to bring these children into the world. **I feel I as a parent should have the say in how my child leaves this world.** Every child deserves to receive medical care and should be given a chance at survival. This law creates no new crime or any new regulation under Physicians Licensure.

Simon's Law would also protect life preservation for the critically injured children (such as a child in a school bus accident) when parents have not yet reached the hospital. Every child has the right to the best medical care a physician can provide. I believe as a parent we should have a say in the last moments of our children's lives, regardless if the physician or medical professional thinks they are incompatible with life. These children need a voice and **we as parents are their voice.**

If you have minor children or grandchildren, a nephew, a niece or even a close friend under the age of 18 years old, **Simon's law is a no brainer** and critical legislation for all parents and guardians.

Thank you.

Laurie Castellanos

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