

CALVIN H. HAYDEN
SHERIFF



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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary in Support of HB2439
February 6, 2018

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office supports HB2439, Caitlin's Law.

We were pleased to support Blair Gordon when she approached us concerning this legislation. After our meeting with her a plan was developed. We had meetings at the Sheriff's Office to discuss a plan of action, including a meeting with Chairman Jennings of the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice. The result of those meetings led to the legislation you now have in front of you. The bill was prefiled by Representative Jennings for this session.

I attended the hearing for this bill in the House. It was a difficult hearing to witness. Both Ms. Gordon and Mrs. Vogel, Caitlin's mother, gave testimony and tribute to Caitlin. The loss of a child is the ultimate devastation for a parent. It is difficult to testify about because you re-experience the tragedy. The wound, which only scabs over, is instantly fresh again. The scab is ripped off. I know.

This bill is a needed fix to our DUI laws. It won't bring Caitlin back. We all know that. It will, however, provide the justice for other families that wasn't available to Caitlin's family. As the parent of a child who was murdered I know the satisfaction that can bring.

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office asks that you recommend this bill for passage, amendment free, so it can avoid the conference committee process and be sent straight to the governor for his signature.

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