

Dawn Brown-Dawkins      Mother of D’Ravious Brown-Dawkins

Good day, I am Dawn Brown-Dawkins, a mother of a second-degree murder victim, March 18, 2011. My son, D’Ravious Brown-Dawkins, better known as Ray, was a joyous, loving, and helpful 17-year-old boy. He was on the Police Athletic League (PAL) Chess team. He created a Babysitting club to help other youth learn how to take care of babies when they Babysit. He helped in the church youth group. Ray was humble, polite, smart, and well loved.

On the day he became a victim it was the first day of his extended curfew. He was on Honor roll and his ROTC drills went well, he wanted to be a Marine like me and his dad. Helping people in our neighborhood was something he did often with his friends. That night he and his girlfriend were cleaning out the garage of a senior and assisting in various other things she needed done. He was a leader like that.

On his way home two young men decided they should have his book bag instead of him. His book bag contained a Gameboy and game cartridges and a drink container. The only thing on my son’s mind was getting home by 9:00 PM his extended curfew ended then. With his earbuds in his ears, he walked his girlfriend home then commenced to walk homeward himself. At the corner of the Oak & Noble is where they attacked my son, and with earbuds in his ears he didn’t hear them coming. As per

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witness statements, my son had been jumped, shot twice, and left for dead.

It took six long years to catch these two. Ray was my only son. I have 4 daughters left angry, sad, and confused but making it day by day. In 2011 my son was brutally murdered, and my family endured unimaginable pain and suffering as we grappled with the loss of our son, brother, friend, and so much more. Our lives were shattered, and voids left by his absence that can never be filled.

The subsequent arrest and conviction of the perpetrators provided a sense of closure and justice, although partial for our family. Just knowing that those responsible for Ray's death were behind bars brought some semblance of peace and reassurance that they could not inflict further harm on others.

However, the prospect of this new law threatens to undo the little comfort we have found in knowing that justice was served. Allowing individuals convicted of second- degree murder to walk free would not only undermine the severity of their crimes but also disregard the profound and lasting consequences on victims' families.

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Ray's life was unjustly taken, and no amount of time served by his murderers can undo the irreversible damage they inflicted upon our family. To release them prematurely would be a betrayal of justice and a disservice to the memory of Ray's life.

I implore you to reconsider the passage of this Legislative Bill and to prioritize the well-being and safety of all citizens. The pain of losing a loved one to senseless violence is a burden no family should have to bear; it is our duty to ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions.