

June 4th, 2008 was like any other night in the lives of myself and my 19 year old son David Stipe. I wished him good luck on his job interview the next day and we hugged good night. At 2:30 the next morning I heard a commotion in the front room and what sounded like 4 firecrackers going off. I entered the room in time to see the front door closing. As I turned towards the main room I realized that the sounds had been 4 gunshots to the back of my son's head.

The investigation found that the murder had been committed by a female age 17, a male age 18 and that the shooter was a male age 21. My son had been beaten and also shot in the stomach because he did not know the combination to a small safe we had. The murderers were on drugs and had come to steal money to buy more.

There were 2 guns involved in this murder. The one that was fired into the back of my son's head had been "borrowed" from a known drug dealer in the area who has an extensive criminal record.

My very active and intelligent son did not get the opportunity to fulfill his many dreams. I will never get to have and hold the grandchildren I dearly wanted as he was my only child.

We will never know if a bill such as Senate Bill 941 could have saved my son's life. I do know that we owe it to our children and loved ones to do everything in our power to protect them. Senate Bill 941 is a definite step in the right direction to do that.

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