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House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee**

First, I would like to thank this body and the House for allowing me to come before you to testify how my family is impacted by the actions of a criminal illegal immigrant that was allowed to stay in this country.

My intention is to wake up every individual in this nation so that laws are changed to protect us from sanctuary city policies; so that no other valuable life is stolen nor harmed by a criminal illegal immigrant.

On July 1, 2004 I was horrifically faced with the inevitable reality that the joyous life of my 32-year-old husband, Justin Goodman was tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident. I had to face the reality at the age of 29 that I am a widow, that our 8 year old daughter, Kailya has lost her father and that our family was separated forever due to the carelessness and negligence of a criminal Illegal immigrant's action.

My husband, Justin Goodman was T-boned by a Ford Explorer at the intersection of 88th and Colorado Boulevard in Thornton, Colorado. The force of the impact threw my husband and his motorcycle several feet from the street and onto the curb where my husband bled to death. The Ford Explorer which struck him driven by an illegal immigrant, slowed down first to see what he had done and then raced away hoping not to suffer any consequences for taking my husband's life.

Thornton investigators spent 6 months tracking down the Ford Explorer that hit my husband, and finally found Roberto Martinez-Ruiz. Police said he had provided phony immigration documents. A year after the accident, Roberto Martinez-Ruiz was convicted and sentenced to 16 1/2 years in prison for 7 criminal accounts, including leaving the scene of an accident, careless driving resulting in death, tampering with evidence to cover up a crime and contributing to the delinquency of a minor (for encouraging his daughter and niece to lie to the police for him as he hid the damaged vehicle in another immigrant family member's garage).

Along with those horrifying images of my husband lying bleeding to death on a curb, I have had to deal with the undeniable truth of knowing that the man who killed my husband could have and should have been stopped several years prior.

Since 1996, the driver of the car, Robert Martinez-Ruiz, had a long history of run-ins with the law. To the best of my recollection he had 12 prior arrests and spent some time in jail; his criminal history includes driving without a license, driving without insurance, careless driving, failure to appear in court, probation violation, several drunk driving arrests resulting in a total of 4 DUIs, one account involved leaving the scene of an accident and abandoning his vehicle. In 2000, Roberto Martinez-Ruiz's license was revoked for 5 years; he was an Habitual Traffic Offender. He also had 6 different aliases, as well as driving with a revoked phony license. Despite Roberto Martinez-Ruiz's long rap sheet, all of the arrests, time in jail, and appearances in court, investigations confirmed that no local law-enforcement agency, prosecutor or judge ever contacted federal immigration officials in Denver to have him deported.

Typically, a man like Martinez-Ruiz was allowed to continually break laws and return to the streets because the system provided a safe haven for him to behave recklessly without having to face any serious consequences for his actions. He was also considered by ICE, a non-violent criminal, because of this, he was allowed to remain in America to take the life of my husband, Justin Goodman.

Further investigations also discovered that Martinez-Ruiz and his extended family were massively involved in mortgage fraud. Investigators found that the immigrant family used phony documents, such as a phony name on a fraudulent alien card, a phony drivers license, phony W-2 forms and pay stubs and in apparent collusion with a realtor and lender, received fraudulent loans to buy two houses backed by FHA loans in Thornton, Colorado. In this case, foreclosures on these properties cost taxpayers a total of \$140K because the FHA protected the lenders. This is only one of thousands of such cases costing taxpayers millions in the state of Colorado alone.

Most of it simply goes unnoticed because no government agency has time or the mandate to investigate. The real estate broker and loan broker were indicted on 31 counts of Federal loan fraud. They purchased 31 homes with fraudulent documents and alias defrauding FHA to house other illegals. All 31 homes went into foreclosure causing even more money to the US taxpayers.

I have pondered this long and hard in my search for the truth of why this imbalance continues. Why is the illegal more valuable than the American citizen? Why do we suffer as American citizens at the hands of the people our government prefers to protect? It boils down to the greed for power..... and money..... at any cost..... is what is stealing the lives of those we love.

Each and every citizen of the United States must wake up, before they find themselves crying to sleep every night, wondering why the system they trusted in has failed. Any law enforcement, prosecutor, judge, elected official and so forth who provide a safe haven for illegal criminals must wake up. It is time they are held accountable by making sure Colorado is no longer a safe haven for illegal criminals as well as facing legal consequences for protecting those illegals over the citizens.

Tragically, not all but nonetheless too many of the millions of illegal immigrants while supposedly pursuing "The American Dream", are not only destroying the preferred quality of life for American citizens, but killing, raping, and harming us as well. They are not only taking our

jobs they are bankrupting our economic infrastructure. They are taking the lives of people we cherish. Even more tragically, they are protected by a two-tiered judicial system that allows the criminal illegal immigrants to escape the very crimes we as "American Citizens" would be held accountable for.

I firmly believe this new bill which removes immunity from our elected officials would make a major difference in helping to ensure a safe haven for American citizens. If our elected officials had not created a sanctuary haven for their own political gain, my husband as well as many others may still be unharmed. Their behavior has proven they simply don't care about our citizens as they ignore the damage many illegals cause on many levels. It is time to wake up Colorado! It is time to make the necessary steps to protect the lives of our children, our husbands, wife's, family, loved ones and our citizens of the United States.

My ending advice to all of you while you debate the passing of this bill.... I suggest, today, at this very fine moment to be grateful that you have yet to have this type of experience of having a cherished person in your life stolen from you. This is what you subject us all as long as you remain a Sanctuary Haven where those coming through an unsecured border or overstaying their visas can find a Safe Haven in which they may continue to do harm. I am here today so no other will have to endure the experience of losing someone as precious to them which is devastating of having your husband's life stolen by a criminal who illegally entered this country and continued to commit crimes and was never incarcerated or deported will literally break your spirit and make your soul bleed as it has affected myself, my daughter, my mother-in-law and my family.