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My name is James Sorensen. Daniel Gene-Vincent Sorensen is my son. He was born on September 22, 1981. He would have been 32 -years old, next month. He was barely 26 when he was murdered.

The nightmare began at 2:20pm on November 8, 2007. That is the day I stood in front of my work place as two Northville Township Police Detectives informed me that Daniel was murdered. The wind was knocked out of me as the rest of my life changed in an instant. As I was unable to drive, the two detectives took me home. When there, I had to inform my sweet Kimberly that our only child had been murdered. Our Daniel was no longer alive.

As terrible as learning that someone had killed Daniel was, the detectives had to inform us of what happened to Daniel after his death. Daniel's throat was slit from behind and he was stabbed 12 more times. The killer torched Daniel's toes and fingers to prevent identification of the body, and his head was sawed off. Daniel's headless body was pushed off the back of a truck in a cul-de-sac in Northville Twp., saturated with gasoline, and torched. His lifeless body burned for about 10 hours. The police were unable to tell us where his head was until November 10.

The next day, we learned that Daniel had been lured into a methodically planned ambush by a 17-year old friend and his 18-year old accomplice.

The last time I saw Daniel's face was on November 11, 2007 when Kim and I went to the Wayne County Morgue to identify Daniel's head.

For me, the nightmare along with countless shed tears continues every day.

I came here, today, with a small group in support of the Senate bill and in opposition to the bills currently being considered in the House. We are not backed by a high-powered group such as the ACLU. We don't have the resources to help support our cause as the opposition does. We are not the haters and revenge-seekers that we are accused of being by those that support the release of teen killers. We have been told "Your loved ones are dead and that can't be changed, but our loved ones are suffering in prison. Your loved ones no longer matter, but why should these lives be wasted?"

We are not haters and we are not revenge seekers and our murdered loved ones DO matter. They did not choose to be killed. But those that support the release of the offenders want compassion shown for those that chose to kill.

Their reason for wanting the juvenile killers to ge free? Their brains were not fully developed so they cannot be held responsible the way an adult can be held responsible. They claim that these killings are just youthful indiscretions. In addition, they claim the U.S. Supreme Court has made life without parole unconstitutional. That is not the case. Only MANDATORY Life Without Parole sentences were struck down. Life Without Parole for a juvenile is still a viable sentence. This was confirmed by Justice Clarence Thomas.

These young killers knew exactly what they were doing and knew that to kill was wrong and permanent.

I've discussed this topic many times with those who want parole granted to all juvenile killers in both social and print media. I've asked them what they would say to the family of a victim that was murdered by a parolled juvenile killer. I receive two responses: Either they say that only a small percentage would kill again, or I get no response at all. Complete silence. I'm sure that the family of the second victim would receive great comfort knowing that their loved one was one of the "small percentage" that was killed by a parolled killer.

Isn't it funny how not one person who supports the position of the ACLU and those who side with them thinks that their imprisoned loved one would be the one to kill, again. If just one person is killed by a parolled juvenile killer, then we have failed in our effort to make the correct decision. One life taken in a senseless crime is one life too many.

In any poll I've seen in regard to freeing these killers the vast majority of respondents want these offenders to be kept in prison for life.

If some of the offenders must be granted parole, I am asking that their Life sentence mean something. Please do not accept the penal code suggestions made by the House Committee. I would prefer that the offenders' Life sentences would be confirmed. But if that cannot be the case, then I would much rather see the conditions of the Senate bill enforced.

Let me leave you distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen with one last thought. How would you feel if your loved one were murdered by a killer that murdered before; someone who had been freed on parole? How would you feel if you knew that the offender had been released by a change in law that was designed to protect them and not you or your loved one? Or that they had been released after serving only 15 years? For some, that could be tomorrow. Please don't assume this could never happen to you or someone you love.

Kimberly and I never thought it would ever happen to us.

Should the House Bills pass, the offenders would be eligible for parole every two years. The families of the victims would be forced to relive the horrors of their loved ones' pain and suffering for the rest of their lives. They would never be able to put it behind them and replace those thoughts with the sweet memories of the departed. I ask you to please pass the Senate bill. That would give all of us *some* relief.

Thank you for your time.