

Good Afternoon, my name is Molly White and I am Dominique's step mom. We are here today to ask for your support of SB 360. I wanted to share with you a little bit of my experience in this matter. On September 28, 2017, we received a phone call; it was every parent's worst nightmare. Police Officers had shot Dominique, and he was at Stormont-Vail Hospital. From the time we arrived at the hospital we could not get any information on our son. Was he dead, was he alive, if so was he going to make it? That was just the beginning of what turned our world upside down and began our living nightmare. We faced obstacle after obstacle in our journey to find out what happened to Dominique. The Police said he had a gun and pointed it at them, however, as his family we knew there was no way that was true.

Nobody wants to watch a video of his or her child being shot and killed. Unfortunately, the only way for us to get any answers would be for us to watch the video. Early on, we had a meeting with District Attorney Kagay, he advised us that it was up to him if he would ever allow us to view the video at all. Imagine how we must have felt, knowing that there was a video that we were being denied of. Captain Cross also told us that Dominique's parents referring to Mom, Dad and both Step Parents would be allowed to view it. Our Attorney had set a date with the Topeka Police Department for this viewing to take place. Then upon hearing from their union, the police department changed their tone and would only allow Dominique's next of kin, which were his children aged 4 to 13 years old, or an administrator to view the body cams. There was no way we were going to have our grandchildren view it so we were forced to assign an administrator, and although we had already planned to do so, we were not financially ready to take that step.

Our attorneys advised us that there was a lot of paperwork involved and costs could range anywhere from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00. We had just had Dominique's funeral and we did not have that type of money readily available. It is very likely that most people do not after a funeral.

Once Kelly White, my Husband and Dominique's Dad was established as the executor, he was granted access to watch the video along with our Attorney and Captain Cross. The saddest part of all of this was that he was the one person who did not want to watch the video. However, because of the way the law is currently written that was the case and he was in a position in which he had to. I was not allowed to be there to support him. Dominique's own Mother was not allowed to view the video. Even though we were parents, we were not legally allowed to view our Sons last moments.

The whole process was frustrating, complicated, confusing, and stressful. During a time when we just wanted to know what happened to our loved one, we were being denied the opportunity. Meanwhile, in other officer-involved shootings around Kansas the body cameras footage was being released, in some cases in less than 24 hours. This happened once with an incident in Sun City, Kansas and again after the "Swatting" incident in Wichita, Kansas. If I only knew how to explain the pain and frustration that we felt, especially after seeing the other

officers' body cameras being released. It was just another injustice being done to our family and it really cut deep.

As tax paying citizens of this town, we had the right to know what happened to our Son. The current process is broken. There should be a clear law, not one interpreted at the discretion of the city leaders. It was wrong for us to have to pay to get an administrator to view the body cam. Meanwhile, in other cities in Kansas, this was not the case. It is a burden that no family, especially a grieving family, should have to endure in order to find out what happened to their loved one. Parents should not be denied access to video of the last moments of their child's life.

It is our desire that in the future another family will not have to endure the same obstacles, as we have had to endure as a family dealing with an officer involved shooting. It is our hope that in the future, families will have an easier time finding out what happened to their loved ones.

You have the power to show your support for SB 360 to be moved to the larger body of the legislature for a vote to make a difference. Please use your power so that other people will not experience this unnecessary stress in their most desperate time. Thank you for attention, your time, and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Molly White