

Dear Governor Haley,

10-5-16

Thank you for all of your support, love, and encouragement for our family! We are absolutely speechless and grateful for the outpouring of love from our State, as well as our country. Many visitors drove many miles to spend time with us during this celebration for Jacob's life. In speaking with Ranae and Rodger yesterday they would like to see about making a Hall's Law to aid in preventing this kind of school violence again. Rodger would like it to be mandatory that every school in our state have a resource officer on duty and on site during school hours. Ranae would like to see courtyards built in the center of elementary schools where walls actually protect our children playing on playgrounds, and another senseless, random act of violence like the one Jacob endured, could not happen. Personally, I believe that if physical education and sex education are considered important enough to be mandatory curriculum in public education, then SOCIAL EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE (the capacity to be aware of, control, and express one's emotions and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically) should be #1. This would be a proactive means of ending school violence, instead of another reactive one after it has occurred. Teaching children to properly identify and process emotions and "knowing the signs to know when to ask for help" could potentially aid in this domestic problem we see all around this country. After working with many at risk youth and adolescents the course of the past two years, I know without a doubt this would strengthen our young people and give the skills that will carry with them the rest of their life, not just in education, but also in their careers. I believe that making it mandatory for every child suspended or expelled for taking a weapon to school have a psychological evaluation would also serve as a means of proactive defense against school violence. Children are suspended and expelled, basically sent home (alienated) as punishment (Like the child that did this and took a hatchet to school the year before). I know this would not solve every act of violence in school, but it sure would help implement a system to monitor those that slip through the cracks and need monitored, and get proper mental health to the ones that need it. Thank you again for all of your love, support, and encouragement. South Carolina can pave the way for these children to have brighter futures!

Sincerely, Tosha Rollins Ph: 864-551-5984