
From: Lauren Butler <LButler@chfindustries.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc: Lauren
Subject: Please see my letter about Jake Zeman - Died after running marathon in Savannah GA

4/15/2015

Dear Governor Haley,

Hello Governor Haley my name is Lauren Butler. I was born and raised in Columbia, SC and graduated from Dreher High School. My mother still lives in Columbia so I come back to visit often. I am writing you this letter because my childhood friend, Keri Lynn Zeman, lost her brother, Jake Zeman in November of 2013. Jake was running the Rock and Roll Marathon in Savannah, GA when he collapsed just shy of the finish line. Jake died one day before his 36th birthday. He left behind a loving wife and the cutest little boy Jack, and a family whom loved him so very much. He was the epitome of a gentleman and was the picture of health. A heart condition that could have been detected many years ago was the cause of death. An atrial valve prolapse was his cause of death. Jake not only was one of the most genuine people I knew, he was an outstanding athlete as well. He participated in soccer, baseball, and basketball while growing up. He was accepted to the College of Charleston on a soccer scholarship. With this being said Governor Haley, I would really like to see a bill passed that would make a heart screening mandatory for teenage athletes that participate in school sports. There are stories after stories of teenagers dying of cardiac arrest during a sporting event. All of these tragedies could have been prevented with the proper screenings. I have two small children myself whom are very athletic and I will be setting up a screening for them as well. My only regret is that it took losing a great friend to bring awareness to this widespread problem. If these screenings can save one athlete a year it is well worth it to see a life not cut short due to a heart condition. I found this excerpt online.

In the United States, sudden cardiac death occurs most commonly in basketball and football, accounting for 2/3 of incidents. In the rest of the world, soccer (football) is the sport most commonly associated with sudden death.

According to the American Heart Association:

"Most young athletes who die suddenly are found to have a previously unknown heart defect with which they were born. A condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is most common cause of sudden death in young athletes in the United States, accounting for one-third of all mortalities...Cardiomyopathy is a weakening of the heart muscle or a change in heart muscle structure such that the heart no longer pumps blood well."

You may have seen the TRUST stickers around town or have heard of TEAM TRUST, this was setup for Jake. Please take into consideration why I am so passionate to see this done. Thank you for your time. I think you are doing a wonderful job as South Carolina's Governor.

Sincerely,

Lauren Butler