

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

Mr. Chairman Amodei

Hello, my name is Jody Esposito. I am here today to let you know how important Bill # 17 is so to me I am a VP for the non-profit organization Kids N' Cars and on a very personal level it is important because, I am also the mother of Michael Esposito who lost his life May 10<sup>th</sup> 2001 at the age of 5.

Michael was a very happy and outgoing child that had a lot of laughter and love to give to all, there was never a dull moment when you were around Michael, he was someone you could never forget and I as his mother never will.

It only took a moment, after an innocent game of hide and seek. He chose the trunk of my car as his hiding place. He was not left unattended, he was right behind his father and I.

I have donated a lot of my time and energy, since my personal tragedy, to help educate the public on the dangers of leaving children unattended in or around vehicles.

Since 1990 there have been 438 deaths throughout the United States, from children being left in or around a vehicle unattended. At least 12 of those deaths occurred in Nevada. Many other children have been injured or hospitalized due to this dangerous practice.

There have been an average of 60 calls made per month made to our local 911 to remove children from the dangers of being left in or around unattended vehicles. Please be reminded that all of the deaths and calls to 911 were heat related. There are a wide variety of dangers when leaving children unattended around vehicles. Among those are the child being run over by a vehicle, car fires, car jacking, trunk entrapment, strangulation by power windows and sun roofs just to name a few.

It surprised me to find out that there is no law in Nevada to protect our children from this dangerous habit. Parents and caregivers are unfortunately too pre-occupied to remember about the safety of the children they are caring for.

In this fast paced world it is unfortunate that parents and caregivers forget what is important in our lives.

In the months following Michael's passing 2 children died due to parents forgetting their children in their cars and it is continuing to get worse throughout the United States.

This is one of the main reasons why it is so important on getting this bill passed and stopping these horrible tragedies from happening.

I spoke with Senator Valerie Weiner about the possibility of getting a law passed in memory of my son Michael, who was also a student at her father's elementary school "Louis Weiner elementary" Senator Weiner graciously agreed to assist me.

This bill is more about education than punishment. With the possibility that a person can waive the fine if they attend an educational class on the dangers that can happen.

I believe that by getting this bill passed it will save the lives of many children and educate those that are unaware of the dangers of leaving children unattended around vehicles.

Unfortunately it seems as if laws and education are the only way to make people respond to such dangers.

I hope you will all join me on finding the urgency of passing this bill.

Jody Esposito