

MICHELLE R

Dear [Salutation]:

We were so proud when my youngest daughter, Bianca, graduated from high school. She had such a bright future ahead of her. But, a horrific interaction with a man with a gun stole that future from her.

Bianca was always looking out for others. When she was young, she was the kid who intervened when a classmate was being bullied. I believe her true purpose was to help and protect those around her. I hold tight to these memories, and try to live out her purpose with my life.

In 2017, Bianca was about to start her freshman year of college. She was driving home after shopping for school supplies when she tried to merge into the same lane as an aggressive driver. He followed her and fired a shot into her car. It killed her instantly. She was 18.

We often stay silent about hard things so we don't make people uncomfortable. But, I've learned that people need to understand the reality of gun violence if we have any hope of solving it. That's why I'm writing to you now, and telling you about the struggle I feel every moment of the day. I miss Bianca more than I can express. I mourn for the opportunities I won't get to have, like watching my baby girl grow into adulthood.

I have advocated for stronger gun laws at the Pennsylvania State Capitol more times than I can count. I have talked with our representatives until I had no more words left, urging them to fight for the common-sense gun laws that most Pennsylvanians strongly support. But, politicians like K.C. Tomlinson have refused to take up gun safety legislation like a red flag law that would keep guns out of the hands of people who pose a threat to themselves or others. Now, I'm giving my energy to the candidates who will join me in my fight, not stand in my way.

People often reach out to tell me how sorry they are for what happened to Bianca. I tell them I don't need them to be sorry — I need them to take action. To help us make change.

So I'm asking you, please vote, either early or on November 3, and vote NO on K.C. Tomlinson for the state House. Pennsylvania families like ours and yours deserve real solutions to keep us safe.

In solidarity,

Michelle