Dear Friend,

My daughter Lindsay had so much to look forward to. She was a college student who dreamed of being an elementary school teacher. She was raising her 9-month-old baby girl, and spent her spare time volunteering and working as a waitress. She had her whole life ahead of her. But, a man with a gun changed all that.

Lindsay was at a friend's house celebrating the holiday season when she was shot and killed on December 3, 2006 by a convicted felon who should never have been able to have a gun. But, because of the loopholes in our background check system, he got one easily.

I want you to know what Arizona's weak gun laws really mean. It means that my granddaughter has to grow up without the mother who loved her. It means that the holiday season is forever changed for us, because we have an empty seat where Lindsay should be.

It means that instead of watching my daughter raise her own baby, I spend every minute I can spare at memorials, at marches, and at the statehouse begging my representatives to support common-sense gun laws that could save someone else from Lindsay's fate.

I can't change what happened to Lindsay. But, I do have the power to tell her story. It's never easy, but I do it over and over again to help people understand the consequences of Arizona's weak gun laws, and fight for change.

My granddaughter is a teenager now, and together we advocate for stronger gun laws, and we teach people in our community how to do it too. But for too long, our words have been ignored by the people who are supposed to represent us in the state legislature. This year, we have the opportunity to elect candidates who will put gun safety first.

That's why I'm asking you to VOTE against Kevin Payne for state House. Politicians like Kevin Payne have refused to support background checks on all gun sales. They block legislation that keeps guns out of the hands of those with violent criminal records—like the person who killed my daughter.

Kevin Payne would rather look out for the gun lobby than support common-sense gun safety measures that could save lives and prevent mothers like me from burying their children. Arizonans deserve better than that.

As each year goes by, I have trouble remembering the sound of Lindsay's voice. But I'll never stop honoring her life, and working to prevent future gun deaths. I truly hope you will join me in this effort by using YOUR VOTE in this election to create real change.

In Solidarity,

Deborah P.

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