

August 9, 2013  
Gregg & Susan Spindler  
Cazenovia, NY 13035

Governor Dennis Daugaard  
State Capitol  
Pierre, SD

Dear Governor Daugaard,

Our daughter Maegan was killed on July 8 in Pickstown, SD while standing in a parking lot, 200' off the highway, after a long workday for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, along with her supervisor Dr. Robert Klumb. She was mowed down by a drunk driver going 60 MPH that made no effort to stop. Her death was so violent there were no viewable remains; we had no last look at our beautiful daughter. The local sheriff deputy came to our house at 1:45 AM on July 9 to inform us of her death.

On most mornings since July 8, a day usually begins at first daylight; I get up and go into the living room and look at Maegan's portraits, the urn containing her ashes, the many sympathy cards we have received and the fresh cut flowers we place there from our garden. Then I cry and do some spiritual readings in my attempt to gain some inner peace.

We will never see Maegan attain her aspiration of a graduate degree in Fisheries Biology. We will never see Maegan get married. We will never hold a grandchild borne by her. Once we are gone, she will not be here to support her brother's special needs.

Governor Daugaard, our children must be about the same ages and your's... Maegan came to South Dakota to live and work and was actively considering entering graduate school at SDSU in Brookings. She did not come to your state to be killed in a parking lot by a drunk driver.

**This sort of crime could happen to anybody, including you, your wife or your children.**

- First and foremost, we must accept the fact that her death was preventable.
- Secondly, it was the direct result of criminal behavior.
- Thirdly, the state has an obligation to protect its residents from criminal behavior.
- Fourth, DUI is **emphatically** not a "non-violent crime" in the absence of death or injury (as indicated in the 2013 SD Criminal Justice Initiative). Driving a vehicle while intoxicated is no different than a drunk randomly shooting a firearm; it is only chance that puts innocents in harm's way of a drunk driver.

On July 30 we met with your General Counsel, Jim Seward to discuss Maegan's death and more specifically, how the Spindler family can help the state of South Dakota improve DUI enforcement. Jim presented us with information about criminal justice reform efforts and DUI.

Having suffered this loss, we naturally wanted to understand more about DUI in South Dakota, the US and the rest of the world. After even cursory research, it is readily apparent that the US is not as effective at reducing DUI when compared to other advanced economies. Our death rates and the BAC thresholds are far higher than most other countries. Why?

To address this problem and to begin our healing process, we are going to start an effort



to work with the government and citizens of South Dakota to advocate changes in law to bring "best in class" performance of DUI enforcement and reductions. We are not prohibitionists, rather advocates of public safety and health. Our efforts will be two-pronged; first at the governmental and political level and secondly at a grass roots level.

The gist of the problem is DUI enforcement competes with all other public safety issues for funding. Enforcement tends to be almost exclusively reactive and not proactive. We advocate a dedicated revenue stream to combat DUI. In a separate document (A Proposal to Build "Best in Class" DUI Enforcement in South Dakota in honor of Maegan Spindler) we have outlined our ideas that will be further developed and advocated in the coming weeks and months.

Governor Daugaard, we are asking you to consider working with us and supporting our efforts.

- ***We ask you to make Maegan's beautiful face the "poster child" of DUI reform in your state.***
- ***Please make "Best in Class" DUI enforcement the signature initiative of your administration.***
- ***Let the entire nation know South Dakota as the place where true DUI reform was begun; it is good for business.***

South Dakota is a small state with a big problem. Size matters on both accounts, because reform is "do-able" as a small state and measurable progress is attainable. Whiteclay may be in Nebraska, but ultimately it is a South Dakota problem, just like Pickstown has now become. South Dakota can be a model for the rest of the United States with serious DUI reform. Please help by leading the effort.

Sincerely,

Gregg A. Spindler

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Susan L. Spindler