



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of the State of Tennessee
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Support for funding for Jillian's Law, HB1640 / SB1769

Dear Governor Lee,

Thank you for your work to address preventable firearm tragedies in the state of Tennessee. We are encouraged by your continued willingness to have a dialogue on this issue, and with conversations we are having with lawmakers on firearm safety.

This session, as we approach the one-year anniversary of the heartbreaking Covenant School shooting, we have the opportunity to address shortcomings in our state's laws that led to another tragic shooting – that of Belmont University student Jillian Ludwig.

We write in strong support of HB 1640 / SB 1769, known as Jillian's Law, which makes those deemed incompetent to stand trial prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms, and adds a process for involuntary committal for those who pose a danger to themselves and their community. Jillian tragically and unnecessarily lost her life to a dangerous individual who was released just 12 days after a finding of incompetency. And in conversations we at Safer TN have had around the state, we discovered other Tennessee communities facing similar challenges.

This has become an issue of public safety. Jillian's Law has already seen strong support in the House and the Senate, but needs funding to become a reality. Please consider providing the needed funding for this law in your budget amendment to the legislature. Safer TN's mission is to build safer, healthier communities by reducing preventable firearm tragedies across Tennessee, and funding Jillian's Law would help advance this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Cruse
Chair, Board of Directors
Voices for a Safer Tennessee

Rev. Dr. Clay Stauffer
Chair, Advisory Board
Voices for a Safer Tennessee

William F. Carpenter III
Member, Advisory Board
Voices for a Safer Tennessee

Milton Johnson
Member, Advisory Board
Voices for a Safer Tennessee

Senator Bill Frist, MD
Member, Advisory Board
Voices for a Safer Tennessee