

Joe Abraham: Written Statement for the Record

U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
Hearing on Sanctuary Policies

Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee,

Every parent in this room knows there are moments in life that split time in two—everything before, and everything after.

For me, that moment came on January 19, 2025.

Before that day, I was a father watching my children grow into adulthood, enjoying the simple privilege of seeing their lives unfold.

After that day, I became a father who buried his twenty-year-old daughter.

So before I begin, I want you to picture something ordinary.

A car sitting at a red light. Five young friends inside. Music playing. They're talking, laughing, enjoying a normal night together.

My daughter Katie was sitting in the back seat.

The car wasn't moving. They were stopped at a red light. Five friends sitting there, listening to music.

In a single instant, my daughter's life was gone.

Katie was riding in the back seat of a car with four friends when an intoxicated illegal immigrant slammed into the back of them at nearly 80 miles per hour.

They never saw it coming.

The crash crushed the car. Twisted metal everywhere. First responders worked to pull Katie's lifeless body from the wreckage.

He ran.

While first responders were fighting to pull my daughter from the wreckage, her killer was already running. He received help from numerous people along the way, aiding his escape from justice.

So much for coming here to better himself.

He was eventually captured in Milford, Texas, trying to flee the country and evade accountability for what he had done.

His name is Julio Cucul-Bol, a Guatemalan national who had already been deported once before.

Yet he was able to reenter the United States and live in sanctuary Illinois using a false identity during the Biden–Mayorkas administration.

Federal authorities were aware of him. But Illinois policies prevent meaningful cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Those systems failed to work together.

If those systems had worked together... if the most basic safeguards had been in place... if our elected leaders had enacted sensible and safe immigration policies that properly vetted those entering this country... my daughter would still be alive today.

Katie was compassionate, funny, and incredibly sharp-witted. She had friends from many different backgrounds, loved people, and had a way of making everyone around her feel noticed and valued.

She was also a strong athlete. She played water polo and swam competitively through high school. She approached life with curiosity, energy, and kindness.

As a father, one of the greatest privileges of my life was watching my children grow into the adults they were becoming.

Katie deserved that future.

She deserved to graduate college, to chase a career, to fall in love, to experience the joys and heartbreaks of life like every young adult deserves.

She deserved decades of birthdays, holidays, and ordinary, beautiful moments with the people who loved her.

Instead, she is gone.

Bol was a 29-year-old man with no formal education. In both state and federal court, it was revealed that he could not speak, read, or write English—or even Spanish. His primary language is K’iche’, a Mayan indigenous language from the mountainous regions of Guatemala.

Yet somehow, this man possessed a valid Illinois driver’s license. A man who described himself as illiterate passed written and driving tests required to operate a vehicle in my state.

Bol, like many others entering our country under these conditions, was a single adult male who had already been deported once before. He was not a child. He was not a

refugee fleeing immediate danger. And he was not someone who had followed the legal path that millions of immigrants before him have respected.

Nor was he working, seeking employment, or attempting to obtain language or literacy support that might allow him to function safely and responsibly in our society.

Bol, like many others, was not here to build a future. He was here using our country and my state as his personal playground and ATM machine, aided and abetted by the state of Illinois and the politicians who champion these reckless policies.

Bol is a man of poor character. His choices that night were reckless and unforgivable.

But in one important respect, he was acting rationally.

He responded to the incentives placed in front of him.

When a country signals that its borders are porous, when deportations are ignored, when sanctuary policies promise protection from cooperation with federal authorities, and when identity verification and enforcement collapse, people with poor character will predictably take advantage of those conditions.

Those incentives are not just legal—they are also monetary. Generous taxpayer-funded benefits and services, combined with the low likelihood of enforcement, create a powerful signal that the rules of entry and residence no longer matter.

When someone has already crossed a border illegally, reentered after deportation, assumed a false identity, and violated multiple laws while living here, there is no reason to suddenly expect deference to the law at the moment when it matters most.

The rational response for someone of poor character in that environment is to continue doing what he had already been doing—ignoring the law.

The irrational behavior was not his.

The reckless behavior came from those entrusted with governing—leaders in Washington during the Biden–Mayorkas administration and leaders in Illinois, including J. B. Pritzker, who championed and defended sanctuary policies that removed guardrails and accountability at every stage.

My own family’s story is very different.

My parents immigrated legally to the United States from a third-world country. They came here for the right reasons. They did not come here to make claims on this country or to suggest that America somehow owed them something.

They came for the opportunity that America has always offered to those willing to work hard, follow the law, and contribute to the society they join.

They honored that opportunity.

They worked hard. They raised their family with respect for this country and its laws. They believed deeply in the idea that citizenship carries both rights and responsibilities.

Our family honored that social contract.

We are law-abiding citizens. We work hard. We pay the heavy taxes that are levied on us every year. We have tried to be productive members of our community and contributors to our country.

But that social contract was broken.

It was broken by the very government whose first responsibility is to keep its citizens safe.

This country spends trillions of dollars every year. My state spends billions every year. Yet somehow, the government cannot seem to do the most basic things expected of it: live within its means and protect the safety of its citizens.

That is failure at every level of government.

And while that failure continues, families like mine are left to carry the permanent consequences of those decisions—decisions made by people who will never bear the cost of them.

After Katie's death, we also learned that while incarcerated, Bol was being treated for HIV—an infectious disease he had been living with in our communities. This is not a moral judgment. It is simply another example of a system with no guardrails—a system that failed everyone involved.

Katie's story is inconvenient to sanctuary policies. And that is exactly why Illinois' governor and policymakers, aided by a sympathetic or complicit media, try to make Katie and her story invisible—to erase the consequences of their failed policies and prevent accountability.

Governor Pritzker and many Illinois politicians often speak about compassion. Compassion matters.

But real leadership means judging policies not by intentions, but by outcomes.

Because intentions do not save lives.

Results do.

Without accountability, how can we hold our elected officials responsible for preventing the loss of innocent lives? This is the paradox we face: a system that offers

those in power a kind of immunity while leaving the public exposed. Such a system is broken by design. It cannot stand.

My daughter paid that ultimate price.

It has now been more than fourteen months since Katie's completely preventable death. And during that time, the leaders of my state—every single one of them—have remained silent about this case.

Silence is not neutral.

Silence is a choice.

And too often, silence is followed by something else—deflection.

What happened to my daughter must not be minimized or explained away with comparisons that miss the point.

When tragedies like hers are raised, the response too often becomes: “crime happens everywhere,” or “citizens commit similar acts.” Those statements may sound reasonable, but they are a false equivalence. They shift attention away from the only question that matters in this room:

Did decisions made by people in authority increase or decrease preventable risk?

Crime exists in every society. That is not the issue before you.

The issue before you is whether policy choices, enforcement failures, and gaps in oversight contributed to a death that could have been prevented.

Generalities do not answer that question.

Data does.

Transparency does.

Accountability does.

Every preventable death deserves rigorous, case-specific examination. My daughter's life cannot be reduced to a statistic or a talking point used to protect a policy or shield a political reputation.

The question is not whether similar incidents occur somewhere else.

The question is whether this one could have been prevented.

Could better policies have stopped it?

Could better coordination have stopped it?

Could stronger safeguards have stopped it?

Those are the questions that matter.

And when innocent and defenseless people are harmed because leaders refuse to confront those questions—when they substitute tired platitudes for serious examination—that is not leadership.

That is a failure of leadership.

Public office carries a duty not just to acknowledge tragedy, but to confront its causes and fix what is broken.

So I ask this Committee to do the work that accountability requires.

Identify precisely what failed in this case.

Determine which policies or practices allowed that failure to persist.

Establish measurable changes to reduce the likelihood of it happening again.

And ensure ongoing oversight so those changes are real, not rhetorical.

Deflection does not protect the public.

Action does.

Transparency does.

Accountability does.

Katie was not a headline.

She was not a statistic.

She was my daughter.

She should be finishing school.

She should be planning her future.

She should still be laughing with her friends and arguing with her siblings.

Instead, her life ended in a crushed car at a red light.

Her urn now sits in a room in our home built to remember her life—a room no parent should ever have to build.

I cannot bring Katie back.

If I could trade places with her, I would do it without hesitation. I would give every remaining day of my life just to give her one more.

She should still be here.

But she is not.

And because of the reckless decisions of people entrusted with public authority, something else was taken from me as well. I once looked forward to the later years of my life—watching my children grow older, watching their children grow, and enjoying the simple privilege of seeing my family continue forward.

That future was taken along with my daughter.

Today I find myself in a place I never imagined: indifferent to the length of my own life. When a child is taken through preventable failure, the years ahead lose their meaning.

The politicians responsible for these policies will never feel that loss.

They will never sit where I now sit.

They will never bury the child they were supposed to outlive.

Every parent in this country should ask themselves one question:

If this could happen to Katie, why couldn't it happen to your child?

This was not an unavoidable tragedy.

It was not fate.

It was preventable.

And the system that was supposed to protect her failed.

Katie received a death sentence that night.

Her family received a life sentence.

And the people whose policies helped make it possible will wake up tomorrow and go about their lives as if nothing happened.

Katie is gone.

But the consequences of those decisions will be carried by my family for the rest of our lives.

An illegal immigrant killed my daughter — leftists march for Renee, not for Katie

Democrat politicians like Walz and Pritzker use double standard between ICE shooting response and sanctuary city victims



As I read and watched the coverage coming out of Minneapolis about the tragic shooting of a woman allegedly attempting to run over a federal agent with her vehicle, two things immediately came to me.

First, how demonstrators were being stoked, inflamed and used by politicians for self-serving purposes. Second — and far more personal — where was the outrage when my innocent 20-year-old daughter, Katie Abraham, was killed by an illegal alien shielded and protected by [Illinois' sanctuary policies](#)?

Katie's killer was Julio Cucul-Bol. He was using an alias. He is currently being treated for an incurable communicable infectious disease, according to court transcripts. Yet when my daughter was violently killed, there were no viral videos, no breathless media panels, no emotional press conferences and no candlelight vigils amplified by politicians and pundits.

Where were the stories about how the car Katie was riding in — stopped at a red light — was struck from behind at nearly 80 miles per hour by a drunk-driving illegal alien?



DHS launched "Operation Midway Blitz" in honor of Katie Abraham, who was killed in a drunken-driving, hit-and-run car wreck caused by a criminal illegal alien in sanctuary Illinois. (Department of Homeland Security)

Where was the outrage over how first responders had to pry the vehicle open like a tuna can to pull my daughter's lifeless body from the wreckage?

It also struck me how the same media figures, politicians and commentators now expressing outrage over the Minneapolis shooting have had nothing to say about Katie. Nothing.

But these politicians had this to say about the ICE shooting:

New York City Democrat Mayor [Zohran Mamdani](#): "We know when ICE agents attack immigrants, they attack every single one of us across this country."

[Chicago Democrat Mayor Brandon Johnson](#): "We stand in solidarity with the people of Minneapolis and with all of those across the country whose lives have been torn apart due to reckless actions by Trump's lawless, racist force."

Los Angeles Democrat Mayor Karen Bass: "It happened because of the brutal and racist policies of the Trump administration that unleashed these agents."

The hypocrisy is impossible to ignore.

The night before the June 12, 2025, congressional hearings on sanctuary policies, my wife and I happened to be eating dinner at the same restaurant as Minnesota Democrat Gov. [Tim Walz](#). I approached him, and we had a polite conversation. Walz offered his condolences for Katie's death, which I appreciated.

President Donald Trump holds a photo of Katie Abraham, pictured right, as her father Joe Abraham, left, watches during an event to promote Trump's domestic policy and budget agenda in the East Room of the White House. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

But the following day — while testifying in support of sanctuary policies — Walz did not say a single word about my daughter. Not one acknowledgment that Katie was violently killed by an illegal alien protected by the very policies he was championing.

Instead, after the Jan. 7 shooting, he declared "that the Trump administration's dangerous, sensationalized operations are a threat to our public safety."

At those same hearings, Illinois Democrat Gov. [JB Pritzker](#) and New York Democrat Gov. Kathy Hochul also appeared. Yet my own governor, Pritzker, has offered Katie nothing but indifference, silence and disrespect. In my view, that is not compassion or humanity. It is entitlement — an aloof billionaire insulated from the consequences of his policies, exempt from the harm they cause, just like the illegal aliens he protects.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Katie's death on Jan. 19, 2025, sanctuary policies continue to cause death and destruction. And our political leaders continue to double down.

It also struck me how the same media figures, politicians and commentators now expressing outrage over the Minneapolis shooting have had nothing to say about Katie. Nothing.

Katie's death was not a random act of fate. It was the predictable outcome of policy decisions made by Illinois leaders who chose ideology over accountability.

States like Illinois and Minnesota have effectively nullified federal immigration law through sanctuary statutes that refuse to cooperate with federal law enforcement — even when authorities possess credible information about an individual's identity, background, or risk to public safety. These policies did not just fail my daughter and the other victims that night. They failed every citizen. And they failed even the people they recklessly import for political gain.

This is not immigration policy. This is not compassion. This is cruelty.

Sanctuary policies are often defended as "humane," but compassion without structure is neglect. A system that invites people in while refusing to vet them, guide them, or hold them accountable does not uplift the vulnerable — it abandons them.

This is not sympathetic governance. It is systemic irresponsibility.

By refusing to cooperate with federal authorities, Illinois removed every guardrail that might have prevented tragedy. No meaningful background checks. No identity confirmation. [No monitoring](#). No intervention — until it was too late.

Katie paid with her life.

And while my family grieves, Illinois leaders refuse to pause, audit or reassess these policies. There is no serious effort to implement even basic safeguards such as identity verification, health screening, language services or lawful employment pathways — measures that would protect both residents and newcomers.

At those same hearings, Illinois Democrat Gov. JB Pritzker and New York Democrat Gov. Kathy Hochul also appeared. Yet my own governor, Pritzker, has offered Katie nothing but indifference, silence and disrespect.

Instead, officials hide behind slogans and accuse critics of lacking compassion. Their hyperbolic language inflames tensions rather than easing them. But that chaos is the point — it creates distraction, deflection and political cover for failed policy. I would also argue that it inflamed activists like [Renee Nicole Good, the 37-year-old](#) who was shot dead by an ICE officer. Her death is now being used as canon fodder against ICE, DHS and the Trump administration.

Where is the humanity in all of this?

Policies must be judged by outcomes, not intentions. When a system repeatedly produces preventable death, injury, fraud and disorder, it is broken.

Illinois and other sanctuary states can — and must — do better. We need policies that are both lawful and humane. Policies that enforce the law while providing real structure, oversight and accountability. Policies that protect communities without dehumanizing anyone.

Originally published in Fox News on January 14, 2025. Read the original here: <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/illegal-immigrant-killed-my-daughter-leftists-march-renee-not-katie>.

Support Joe Abraham

Launched 21 days ago

I'm Joe Abraham, Angel Dad to Katie Abraham. My daughter was killed by an illegal alien in a preventable drunk driving crash. I write to honor Katie, demand border security, and fight for accountability so no other family suffers this loss.

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They Tried to Ignore Us — But We Will Not Be Silent

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FEB 28 · JOE ABRAHAM

Untethered by Hypocrisy: When Compassion Becomes a Slogan and Citizens Pay the Price

January 19, 2025 altered my family forever.

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Illinois Is Doubling Down on Policies That Failed My Daughter

My daughter, Katie Abraham, was twenty years old when she was killed.

MAR 11 · JOE ABRAHAM

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An illegal immigrant killed my daughter. Katie and Illinois are both getting justice

'Operation Midway Blitz' honors Katie Abraham after she was killed by an illegal immigrant



JOE ABRAHAM
NOV 19, 2025



When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reached out to ask if they could honor my daughter Katie through “[Operation Midway Blitz](#),” I had questions. I couldn’t agree to anything in my daughter’s name sight unseen. But after speaking with DHS and understanding the goals of this operation — to enforce the laws that are supposed to protect families like mine and to amplify Katie’s tragic story — I was convinced that her death would not be in vain.

Katie was violently killed on Jan. 19, 2025, in a way no parent should ever have to imagine. She was a passenger in a car stopped at a red light when an illegal alien, driving drunk at nearly 80 miles per hour, slammed into the back of their vehicle. The driver, Julio Cucul-Bol, a Guatemalan national in the country illegally and using false Mexican identification, stole from us a bright, loving young woman with her whole life ahead of her.

Adding to the horror of that night, after violently destroying the car and the lives inside it, he fled the scene — without a second thought to the people he had just maimed and killed. He didn’t try to render aid. He didn’t call for help. He ran, selfishly and cowardly, leaving others to face the devastation he caused.

That’s the true measure of the man who should never have been in our country to begin with.



DHS launched "Operation Midway Blitz" in honor of Katie Abraham, who was killed in a drunken-driving, hit-and-run car wreck caused by a criminal illegal alien in sanctuary Illinois. (Department of Homeland Security)

It seems painfully simple: if this man had not been allowed into our country against federal law, he would not have been on that road, and my daughter would be alive today. If Illinois had real leadership willing to prioritize public safety over politics — and if the state hadn’t doubled down on the [sanctuary policies](#) that shielded this coward — Katie might still be with us.

For months, I’ve been saying that it’s far easier to prevent chaos on the front end than to clean up tragedies like mine on the back end. An ounce of prevention always beats a pound of cure. I’ve consistently challenged [Illinois politicians](#) to explain how they had planned to balance public safety with their open-border and sanctuary policies. The silence has been deafening.

And I’ve asked repeatedly: what controls or audit processes were ever put in place once Illinois politicians opened the back door to anyone and everyone? Who was making sure our communities were safe? Who was tracking who came in, where they were going, or how they were being supported?

Instead of acting with compassion or foresight, Illinois leaders encouraged and even incentivized [illegal immigration](#), sending a dangerous message that anyone could come here without consequence. That’s not compassion — that’s cruelty. It shows no regard for the safety of residents and no empathy for the struggles, abuse and exploitation suffered by the very people making that perilous journey.

After Katie’s death, I met with dozens of DHS and ICE agents and support staff in Chicago. I also sat down with Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons, and we spoke at length about how open-border policies are tearing apart our communities. The contrast couldn’t have been more stark. I was struck by their professionalism, compassion and dedication. These men and women are not the villains that some politicians and activists make them out to be. They are Americans trying to do their jobs — to restore order and balance after years of dangerous neglect. Each of the dozens of men and women I met were competent, professional and deeply committed to keeping our communities safer.

I can’t help but wonder if any of ICE’s critics have ever taken the time to sit across from one of these agents or staff members. If they did, I believe they’d see what I saw: dedicated Americans working tirelessly to make our communities safer.

Illinois politicians have shown no such compassion. They ignored Katie’s story because acknowledging it would mean admitting the failures of their policies. It appears their silence is not about grief or guilt — it’s about political self-preservation. Maintaining inflated census numbers and congressional seats seems to matter more than protecting innocent lives.

Instead of acting with compassion or foresight, Illinois leaders encouraged and even incentivized illegal immigration, sending a dangerous message that anyone could come here without consequence.

Katie lost her life to their cynical game of Russian roulette. And with her, we lost everything she might have become — her future, her chance to marry, to have children. I will never walk her down the aisle. I will never hold her children. Those are the real consequences of failed leadership.

Our current Illinois politicians should slink away in shame, never to hold any public office ever again.

That’s why I support “Operation Midway Blitz,” because it’s time to bring accountability back to our immigration system. It’s time to put the safety of Americans ahead of political games. And it’s time to honor Katie — not just with words, but with action.

Originally published in Fox News on November 19, 2025. Read the original here: <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/illegal-immigrant-killed-my-daughter-katie-illinois-both-getting-justice>.

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Christmas without Katie — and without accountability

JB Pritzker’s sanctuary policies protected a repeat-deported drunk driver. My daughter paid with her life.



JOE ABRAHAM
DEC 23, 2025



One of my daughter’s favorite parts of the holidays was being together with our entire family. She had a way of drawing everyone in, captivating us with her stories and adventures. She loved the lights, the sounds, and the energy of the season — the warmth and joy that made the holidays feel alive.

This Christmas will my family’s first without her joy and her warmth. Her life was taken too soon by someone who shouldn’t have been here to begin with. It didn’t have to be this way, and those responsible should be held accountable.

Christmas is a time for mercy. Katie was a merciful person and was quick to forgive. But we need more than mercy to move forward.

My daughter Katie Abraham was just 20 years old on January 19, when she was killed on the streets of Urbana, Illinois, by an illegal alien. Every day since has been marked by a void that cannot be filled — a pain that deepens as we approach the first anniversary of her death.

Her life was stolen by Julio Cucul-Bol, an illegal alien using an alias, who fled on foot after slamming into the vehicle she was riding in at nearly 80 miles per hour.

Bol was driving drunk and had previously been deported. In federal court, through an interpreter, he stated that he had no formal education, could not read or write in any language, and did not speak English — even after years in this country.

I refuse to accept that what happened to my little girl was accidental. The factors that caused her death were deliberate, reckless, and completely avoidable. They are the direct result of extreme sanctuary policies championed by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) and his political allies. Illinois leaders deliberately ignore the harm these policies cause families like mine because acknowledging it would expose their recklessness.

Compassion, in Illinois, seems reserved exclusively for illegal aliens — while victims and citizens are forgotten.

Bol was eventually apprehended by U.S. marshals two days after President Trump took office, caught in south Texas while heading for the border. I am grateful to the president, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Department of Homeland Security, and ICE for securing the border immediately. Had Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas remained in charge, I firmly believe Bol would have escaped into Mexico and would never have been held accountable.

Bol accepted a plea deal of 30 years, of which he will serve 85%. Still, he killed two women and injured three others. No matter how it is framed, justice feels incomplete.

My daughter’s killer shouldn’t have been here in the first place, but Pritzker and the other sanctuary politicians in Springfield did everything they could to protect him from federal law enforcement. No accountability. No protection for law-abiding citizens. They call it *compassion*. These officials pretend to care about everyone while actually caring about no one.

Which brings me to the question that will not leave my mind: Where is the responsibility of the state of Illinois?

Does Illinois bear no responsibility for policies that allowed someone so dangerous to live freely among us? Who in state government will step up and challenge these policies? Who will speak for Katie?

So far, not a single Illinois politician has. Our governor is silent when it comes to my daughter, even as he loudly defends those who entered our state illegally and without vetting.

As parents, we do everything we can to protect our children — only to watch radical leaders advance policies that put them in harm’s way. It is infuriating to have no recourse against the destructive one-party rule of what was once a great state. Politicians shield themselves with immunity while families like mine live with irreversible consequences.

I have lived in Illinois my entire life. I remember when this state had guardrails — when it would have intervened to protect its citizens, especially its children. That Illinois no longer exists.

Another word defines our current reality: exemption.

Why do some groups receive exemptions from personal responsibility while others do not? Why are repeated violations of federal and state law rewarded rather than punished? Illinois leadership seems to believe that those who break countless laws will somehow transform into model citizens once released without consequence. History tells us the opposite.

Christmas is indeed a time for mercy. Katie was a merciful person and was quick to forgive. But we need more than mercy to move forward. The theologian Thomas Aquinas famously said that “mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution,” and he was right. Forgiveness without accountability is not compassion — it is negligence.

Without that accountability and the acknowledgment of wrongdoing, the people of Illinois will continue to suffer, and sanctuary policies will just create more victims.

So I ask again: Where is Pritzker’s responsibility? Where is the responsibility of the state of Illinois?

Because families like mine are paying the price.

Originally published in Blaze Media on December 23, 2025. Read the original here: <https://www.theblaze.com/columns/opinion/christmas-without-katie-and-without-accountability>.

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Gov Pritzker ignored my letter — after his sanctuary policies killed my daughter

I sent Gov JB Pritzker a letter with 11 questions about Illinois sanctuary policies that protected the illegal immigrant who killed my daughter Katie Abraham



I am a lifelong Illinoisan, and I have met my social contract. I've done everything properly. I've been law-abiding and I've been productive. And if I didn't do these things, I would have been punished. So I've met my side of the bargain. But I want my governor to know that he hasn't met his end of the bargain.

Recently, I sent [Gov. JB Pritzker](#) a letter asking straightforward questions about the sanctuary policies he champions — policies that protected an illegal alien who went on to [kill my daughter](#). I asked for a response by January 19, 2026, the one-year anniversary of Katie's death. To this day, I have received nothing.

The pain our family has experienced in the past 12+ months [since Katie's death](#) is beyond description. I wish I could explain it to people. The pain is so unbearable at times it has made me almost unable to function. I am haunted by the knowledge that I will never walk my daughter down the aisle, I'll never hold her children, I'll never see her again. I would give anything – anything – and the rest of my days for just one more hour with her.

My questions to the governor were not ideological questions. They were factual, basic, and rooted in public safety. Among the 11 questions I asked, three stand out:

First, in federal court on November 23, 2025, it was stated that Julio Cucul-Bol is currently receiving treatment through the [Illinois Department of Corrections](#) for an incurable communicable disease, HIV. What medical screening protocols, if any, were in place when he entered Illinois?



Katie Abraham was killed when the vehicle she was traveling in was rear-ended by an illegal immigrant drunk driver. (Joe Abraham)

Second, it has since been revealed that Cucul-Bol, a Guatemalan national, was using the alias "Juan Jahaziel Saenz-Suarez," falsely identifying himself as a Mexican national. Federal law-enforcement authorities were aware of this identity fraud. Why was an individual known to be using an alias allowed to remain in Illinois communities without meaningful verification?

We ask why this individual was in the country, in the state, and in our communities to begin with. Gov. Pritzker wants the public to stop asking that question. I will not.

Third, Cucul-Bol possessed an Illinois driver's license despite being illiterate and unable to read or write in any language. How did he pass the written driver's examination?

These are simple questions. They deserve answers. You can [read my entire letter here](#).

Gov. Pritzker was elected to represent me, my family and every citizen of this state. Instead of responding, he chose silence. And when pressed by the media, his office attempted to deflect responsibility by pointing to a DUI narrative raised by Katie's mother — as if intoxication somehow erases the fact that the man who killed my daughter should never have been here in the first place.

It does not.

Drunkenness cannot be separated from presence. If an illegal alien stabs someone to death while drunk, we do not excuse the crime by blaming alcohol alone. We ask why that individual was in the country, in the state and in our communities to begin with. Gov. Pritzker wants the public to stop asking that question. I will not.

DHS launched "Operation Midway Blitz" in honor of Katie Abraham, who was killed in a drunken-driving, hit-and-run car wreck caused by a criminal illegal alien in the sanctuary state of Illinois. (Department of Homeland Security)

On January 19, 2025, my youngest daughter, [Katie Abraham, was killed](#) in Urbana, Illinois. She was only 20-years-old — brilliant, loving, full of promise and planning a future that will now never come. She died instantly when the car she was riding in was rear-ended at nearly 80 miles per hour by a drunk driver, Julio Cucul-Bol, an illegal alien.

Cukul-Bol was using an alias while in Illinois and went undetected under a system unprepared — and unwilling — to enforce immigration law. First responders had to pry open the vehicle to reach Katie's lifeless body.

She was gone before we could say goodbye.

The driver fled the scene but was later apprehended in Texas. He pleaded guilty to a 30-year prison sentence for [killing two women](#), including my daughter, and injuring three others. Some say this is justice. It is not. When that sentence is divided among the five lives shattered that night, Katie's life is effectively valued at about ten years. And because Illinois is a sanctuary state, we are forced to worry that even this sentence may not be fully served.

Gov. Pritzker was elected to represent me, my family and every citizen of the state of Illinois. Instead of responding to my questions about my daughter's death, he chose silence. (Scott Olson/Getty Images)

Gov. Pritzker likes to say immigration enforcement is the responsibility of the federal government. Yet in practice, he nullified federal immigration law and replaced it with his own. Without legislative consent or meaningful public accountability, he facilitated the entry and protection of hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens — without adequate vetting, without health screenings and without a realistic plan for public safety.

Katie was more than a statistic or a talking point. She was vibrant, kind, creative and deeply loved. She had dreams and plans that were stolen — not only by one man's recklessness, but by a political system that valued ideology over human life.

Yes, Julio Cucul-Bol chose to drink and drive. But Governor Pritzker chose policies that allowed an illegal alien — using an alias, lacking basic verification and somehow licensed to drive — to live freely in Illinois. Those choices intersected on January 19, 2025. When policy decisions directly contribute to foreseeable harm, responsibility does not vanish. There is blood on the hands of those who refused to act.

This past year has been the most brutal of our lives. Every "first" without Katie has reopened the wound:

- Her 21st birthday, March 28
- Family birthdays
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Year's

Katie was more than a statistic or a talking point. She was vibrant, kind, creative and deeply loved. She had dreams and plans that were stolen — not only by one man's recklessness, but by a political system that valued ideology over human life.

Gov. Pritzker has never acknowledged Katie's life or her death. No call. No letter. No response. Silence.

Silence is not neutrality. Silence is a choice.

For families like mine, that choice speaks volumes.

Originally published in Fox News on Fox News on February 11, 2026. Read the original here: <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/gov-pritzker-ignored-my-letter-after-sanctuary-policies-killed-daughter>.

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Launched 21 days ago

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Illinois Is Doubling Down on Policies That Failed My Daughter

JOE ABRAHAM
MAR 11, 2026

4 Likes, Comment, Retweet, Share, More

My daughter, Katie Abraham, was twenty years old when she was killed.

She was sitting in a car at a red light in Urbana when a drunk driver slammed into her at nearly 80 miles per hour. She did nothing wrong. Her life ended instantly.

The man who killed her was an Illegal immigrant living entirely outside any system of oversight or support in Illinois. He used a false identity. He was intoxicated. And he should never have been invisible to the state.



Yet after Katie's violent and preventable death, Illinois leaders said nothing. There was no acknowledgment of her life, no recognition of how she was killed, and no compassion for her family. Governor J.B. Pritzker; U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky; U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth; U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi—now running for Senator Durbin's seat; State Senator Laura Fine; State Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz; and Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss, Representative Schakowsky's chosen successor, all remain silent even now.

Silence is not accidental. It is a strategy. When victims remain invisible, policies go unchallenged and power remains intact.

Each of these leaders has built a public profile around being a "fighter." Yet when confronted with a clear case of policy failure involving public safety, immigration oversight, and preventable loss of life, there was no engagement, no inquiry, and no visible effort to seek reform. Representative Krishnamoorthi, in particular, seems to believe that his long name is his strongest qualification—but leadership is measured by the courage to confront hard truths and produce tangible results. Advocacy requires action, not branding, especially when lives are at stake.

Eventually, I encountered State Senator Laura Fine at a public event. We spoke calmly about sanctuary policies. When I told her I was Katie's father, she said she did not know my daughter's story. I was deeply disturbed that my own state senator knew nothing about one of the most serious and preventable traffic fatalities in her district, and I ended the conversation. Senator Fine later took my contact information, only to pass me off to a Republican legislator—a telling response.

Months later, Senator Fine told me she wanted to "honor" Katie on the Illinois Senate floor. I declined. Honoring my daughter without confronting the policy failures that contributed to her death felt hollow. I told her I was open—and committed—to working on meaningful reforms, particularly related to drunk-driving penalties and sanctuary-state policies. I have received no response since.

What followed instead were actions that doubled down on the same framework that failed my daughter.

Senator Fine has since introduced legislation that would further restrict cooperation between Illinois law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. This is not reform. It is escalation. It deepens a system built on invisibility—removing oversight while offering no meaningful replacement in the form of integration, accountability, or care.

This matters because systems shape outcomes.

The man who killed my daughter—Bol—was invisible long before the night Katie died. According to federal court records, he could not read or write in any language. He did not speak English or Spanish. He had no formal education, no stable employment pathway, no consistent access to healthcare, and no understanding of basic laws. He is now incarcerated and receiving treatment for HIV—care he was not receiving prior to his arrest.

These are not moral judgments. They are facts. They describe a person abandoned by the state and left to exist entirely outside its systems.

A justice-oriented society does not ignore vulnerability. It intervenes.

Illinois' sanctuary framework removed enforcement and oversight without replacing them with meaningful support. There were no language services, no education or job training, no health screening or follow-up, and no accountability structures designed to prevent predictable harm. Bol was invisible until he killed my daughter. Then, suddenly, the system appeared—too late.

This was not protection. It was abandonment.

Just as troubling is how quickly victims of these policies are made invisible as well. Families like mine are inconvenient. Our stories disrupt carefully curated narratives. Acknowledging Katie's death would require acknowledging policy failure—and that is a challenge to power many leaders seem unwilling to face.

Progressive values teach us that neglect is a form of harm. Public health matters. Community safety matters. Ignoring foreseeable consequences in the name of compassion is not progressive—it is reckless.

A system that keeps people invisible increases the likelihood of harm—to them and to others—while shielding policymakers from accountability.

Meanwhile, Illinois is spending billions responding to the downstream consequences of these policies while residents struggle to access mental-health care, addiction treatment, and basic public-safety resources. A genuine commitment to equity requires asking whether our policies are reducing harm and expanding dignity—or merely preserving political comfort.

This is not a call to abandon compassion. It is a call to complete it.

A humane alternative would include identity verification paired with legal protections; meaningful language access and education; health screening and confidential treatment; lawful employment pathways that reduce exploitation; and accountability structures designed to prevent foreseeable harm.

These are not punitive measures. They are harm-reduction strategies—widely embraced in other areas of progressive public policy, yet conspicuously absent here.

Katie was loved. She mattered. My family matters.

We should never be invisible.

Her death does not invalidate compassion. But it demands that we ask whether our policies are truly protecting human life—or quietly allowing preventable harm while victims are erased from view.

Justice is not measured by intentions. It is measured by outcomes.

If we believe every life has dignity—citizen and immigrant alike—then we must be willing to confront policies that depend on invisibility to survive.

True compassion does not look away from consequences. It learns from them—and does better.

Illinois must do better.

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Launched 21 days ago

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When Compassion Becomes Silence: The Preventable Death of Our Daughter, Katie

The night of January 19, 2025, split our lives into a before and an after.

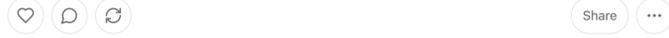
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One Year Without Katie: Answering the Questions That Follow a Preventable Death

JOE ABRAHAM
JAN 01, 2026



As my family approaches the first anniversary of our daughter Katie Abraham’s death, the pain has not dulled. It has deepened.

Katie was just 20 years old when she was killed on January 19, 2025, on the streets of Urbana, Illinois. She was struck and killed by a drunk-driving illegal alien—Julio Cucul-Bol—who was living in our state under an alias, with false documentation, and with an incurable communicable infectious disease. He fled the scene and attempted to escape to Mexico. Only after three agonizing days did we learn he had been apprehended.

Since that night, we have been living in the lowest valley imaginable—one with no clear way out. Katie was our youngest daughter. Her absence is not something you “move on” from. It is an unfillable void that grows heavier with time, especially as the anniversary approaches.

Over the past year, I’ve been asked many questions. Some come from genuine compassion. Others are clearly driven by ideology. I want to address several of them directly—not just for our family, but for anyone who believes these conversations should be grounded in truth rather than political convenience.

“God has a plan for everyone.”

I believe this is usually said with sincere intent—to offer comfort, to help us find peace. But I reject the idea that God’s plan for Katie was to be killed on the streets of Urbana, aided and abetted by Illinois sanctuary policies that protected her killer.

God does not give a young woman extraordinary talents, kindness, and promise so her life can be extinguished in a violent and senseless act. What happened to Katie was not divine design. It was the result of human choices—of uncaring, self-serving, and calculated policies created by arrogant politicians who manufactured an environment where evil could thrive and accountability could be evaded.

“This is the compassionate way forward.”

Unfettered entry without vetting, background checks, or health screenings is not compassion—it is recklessness.

Consider Bol. He entered our state using an alias. He carried an incurable communicable infectious disease. Illinois neither protected the public nor helped him. That is not compassion.

Bol testified in court that he cannot read or write in any language and never attended a single day of formal schooling. So what was Illinois’ compassionate plan for him? Education? Job training? Medical supervision? None of the above.

This was not mercy. It was indifference—toward him and toward every family sharing our communities. Our leaders knew people would die as a result of these policies, and they accepted that cost for political self-preservation.

“Would you feel better if a white citizen had killed Katie?”

This question is as misguided as it is revealing. Reducing death and policy failure to race is a moral failure of its own.

I am the son of a legal immigrant from a third-world country. We don’t even identify as “white.” But race is irrelevant. Had policies created an environment that allowed anyone—of any color—to kill Katie, I would be speaking out just as forcefully.

There is, however, a critical difference between a citizen and someone here illegally. A citizen cannot flee to another country to evade justice. If Katie had been killed by a citizen, our family would not have endured three days of anguish wondering whether her killer would ever be caught.

“This is a drunk driving issue, not an illegal immigration issue.”

It is both.

Yes, drunk driving is a serious problem. But Bol should never have been in our state. A minimal background audit would have prevented this entirely. Illinois failed Katie—and it failed Bol—by refusing to assimilate, enculturate, or supervise the people it claims to compassionately welcome.

Illinois sets these individuals up for failure and the rest of us up for tragedy.

“Immigrant families are being separated.”

Families are separated every day—including mine.

Katie has been taken from us permanently. She is not in a detention center. She is not in another country. We will never see her again. Her future—marriage, children, a life fully realized—was erased. Her bloodline ended the night she was killed.

That reality is never acknowledged by those who speak so casually about “compassion.”

“Citizens commit more crime than illegal aliens.”

This claim has been repeatedly debunked, yet it persists. But even if we accepted it for the sake of argument, what is the logical conclusion? That because crime exists domestically, we should import more of it? That background checks and enforcement don’t matter?

This argument defies reason.

“Why allow DHS/ICE to use Katie’s name in a Chicago operation?”

I support DHS and ICE wherever they operate. No family—whether in Urbana, Chicago, or anywhere else—should endure what we have endured.

Most of our family and friends live in the Chicagoland area. Their safety matters, too.

“Why do you approve of DHS/ICE tactics in the Midway Blitz?”

This did not have to look the way it did.

From the beginning, I’ve said that failure at the front end guarantees chaos at the back end. That is exactly what we are seeing now. But responsibility does not fall on DHS and ICE alone. Cook County officials and the governor share it.

Rather than working—even minimally—with federal authorities to apprehend individuals outside our communities, Illinois leaders prefer chaos. They need it as a deflection tool against DHS, ICE, and President Trump. It is not leadership. It is political theater—and Illinois families deserve better.

Katie’s death was preventable. Saying that does not bring her back, but refusing to say it guarantees more families will join ours in grief.

One year later, we are still here—still broken, still grieving, and still speaking. Because silence is what allowed this to happen in the first place.

Originally published in The American Border Story on January 1, 2026. Read the original here: <https://theamericanborderstory.com/2026/01/01/one-year-without-katie-answering-the-questions-that-follow-a-preventable-death/>.

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My daughter, Katie Abraham, was twenty years old when she was killed.

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Sanctuary policies failed my daughter — and my state

JOE ABRAHAM
DEC 12, 2025



My youngest daughter, Katie, who was only 20 years old, was killed on Jan. 19. Her only “crime” was being a passenger in a car in Urbana, Illinois. The man who took her life, Julio Cucul-Bol, was an illegal immigrant who was driving drunk when he slammed into the Honda Civic she was riding in at nearly 80 miles an hour. He fled immediately and was then aided by associates in Urbana and Chicago as he tried to escape justice.

We later learned Cucul-Bol, a Guatemalan national, was using a Mexican alias: Juan Jahaziel Saenz-Suarez. Federal authorities knew about the alias. If his identity, background, and health status had been properly verified, he could have been filtered out long before Jan. 19. Katie would still be alive.

Yet Illinois officials have insisted there is nothing they can do about the people who helped him flee. After leaving Urbana, he traveled to Chicago and boarded a bus to Mexico. Only two days after President Donald Trump returned to office, U.S. Marshals finally caught Cucul-Bol in Texas. I will always wonder if he would have been caught had the prior administration still been in charge.

For years, the preferred term was “undocumented immigrant.” I will not use it. The man who killed my daughter had multiple documents and multiple identities. “Illegal alien” is the accurate, legal term.

The political leadership of Illinois created the conditions that made Katie’s death possible. By declaring Illinois a sanctuary state — proudly and without guardrails — they invited the world to enter and be protected, with virtually no screening. I repeatedly asked what front-end vetting exists: background checks, health screenings, identity verification, anything.

What I learned after Katie’s death is devastating: Cucul-Bol entered the country, the state, and our community with a communicable infectious disease. It went undetected and untreated. He was released into our community with no oversight and no warning. That is not compassion; it is governmental negligence.

We do not even know whether he was issued an Illinois driver’s license. Our FOIA requests have been denied due to “ongoing investigations.” If Illinois gave him a license, how did he pass the written exam when he reported having no formal education in any language? No answers.

Meanwhile, Illinois taxpayers, including our family, are now paying more than \$60,000 a year to house him in Stateville, not including medical treatment. Our governor has said every illegal immigrant “betters” the state, and criminals will receive due process. Katie received no due process. She received a death sentence. And we are serving life without her.

Illinois continues its extreme sanctuary policies, calling them moral. But morality without responsibility is recklessness.

After Katie’s death, Trump and his administration reached out with compassion and acknowledged our loss. Gov. JB Pritzker (D-IL) has not acknowledged her death at all. No phone call. No letter. No condolences. Nothing — from him or any statewide official who championed the policies that helped enable this tragedy.

We are lifelong Illinois residents. Our own governor could not spare a moment to acknowledge that a young woman in his state was killed by someone protected by policies he defends. Compassion from state leadership is selective. Our family did not qualify.

Illinois must finally answer the following questions.

1. What recourse do residents have when the state fails this catastrophically on issues of basic public safety?
2. Why does Illinois refuse to partner fully with federal agencies that could identify or remove dangerous noncitizens before they kill someone?
3. What checks existed — if any? How did Cucul-Bol pose as a Mexican national? Why was his infectious disease not identified or treated? Were any of these processes ever audited?
4. What systems track individuals protected under sanctuary policies, and how much taxpayer money has been spent supporting illegal aliens who violate the law?
5. Why has not one Illinois official contacted us?
6. What reforms would you demand if this were your child?

As the holidays approach, state leaders will gather around full tables, shielded from the consequences of their policies. We will have an empty chair: Katie’s chair. Illinois’s extreme policies helped put it there. It is past time for commonsense reforms that put the safety of Illinois residents first. My hope is that no other family in our state ever experiences what we have endured.

Originally published in the Washington Examiner on December 12, 2025. Read the original here: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/fairness-justice/3916642/sanctuary-policies-failed-my-daughter-state-illinois/>.

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The Letter From Joe Abraham That Illinois Governor JB Pritzker Ignored

Would we reduce a knife attack by someone who wasn't supposed to be here to just a "knife incident," ignoring the preventable failures that enabled it?

By Eli Steele
JAN 27, 2026

80 14 20 Share

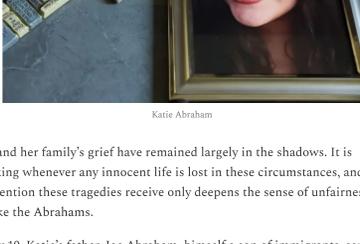
Hi all,

In my earlier Substack post, "[Selective Compassion and the Tragedy of Katie Abraham](#)," I explored the painful reality of selective compassion amid our ongoing immigration and open-border debates, a situation prolonged by years of political gamesmanship that too often placed ideology and political power ahead of humanity.

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chelleparker@yahoo.com [Subscribe](#)

These losses are tragic on all sides. Renee Good and Alex Pretti, whose deaths occurred during federal enforcement actions, drew widespread attention, heartfelt outrage, extensive media coverage, and strong calls for answers from leaders across the spectrum. Yet Katie Abraham, taken by an illegal immigrant who remained in our communities under Illinois sanctuary policies, has received far less public acknowledgment, with relatively little discussion from many of the same voices who speak powerfully about humanity and justice in other cases.



Katie Abraham

Her story and her family's grief have remained largely in the shadows. It is heartbreaking whenever an innocent life is lost in these circumstances, and the uneven attention these tragedies receive only deepens the sense of unfairness for families like the Abrahams.

On January 10, Katie's father, Joe Abraham, himself a son of immigrants, sent a detailed letter to Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and asked for answers to the questions he's been asking for almost a year.

Pritzker has dismissed Katie's death as merely a "drunk driving incident" and refused to acknowledge the role of Illinois' sanctuary policies in allowing her killer, an illegal immigrant with prior violations, including a DUI, to remain in the community. Would we reduce a knife attack by someone who wasn't supposed to be here to just a "knife incident," ignoring the preventable failures that enabled it?

The irony was made all the more stark yesterday when [Pritzker himself demanded](#) answers and accountability in response to Alex Pretti's shooting by Border Patrol agents, tweeting about holding "Greg Bovino and Trump's agents" responsible for "the killings and the damage they've done to America."

Yet, to this day — past the January 19, 2026, deadline Joe Abraham set, which also happens to be the first anniversary of Katie's death — Pritzker has ignored this letter.

Joe Abraham asked me to post his letter in full below in hopes of bringing attention to voices and families that have too often been overlooked in these painful debates.

January 10, 2026

Dear Governor Pritzker,

My name is Joe Abraham, and I am writing as a grieving parent whose daughter, **Katie Abraham**, was killed by an illegal alien, Julio Cucul-Bol, living in Illinois under the state's sanctuary policies. He killed two people and injured three others. This was not an abstract policy failure for our family—it was catastrophic, permanent, and preventable.

As law-abiding, tax-paying residents of Illinois, we upheld our side of the social contract. The State did not uphold its responsibility to protect our family. I list below some questions and am requesting clear answers, accountability, and meaningful reform.

1. Illinois Driver's License Issuance

Julio Cucul-Bol possessed an Illinois driver's license despite being illiterate and unable to read or write in any language.

- How did he pass the written driver's examination?
- What safeguards exist to ensure comprehension of traffic laws and safety requirements?
- Bol does not speak English or Spanish and cannot read or write in any language. His primary language is K'iche', an Indigenous Mayan language spoken in the mountainous regions of Guatemala. Given that his only language is K'iche', what translation or accommodation procedures were used?
- Were certified K'iche' interpreters involved, and how was accuracy ensured?

2. Traffic Safety, Criminal Enforcement, and Prior Police Contact

On the night my daughter was killed, Bol was driving under the influence when he struck the vehicle in which Katie was a passenger stopped at a red light from the rear at nearly 80 miles per hour. He then fled the scene, demonstrating a clear failure to understand—or disregard for—basic legal and moral obligations required to live safely in our communities.

This was not his first interaction with Illinois law enforcement. Prior to killing my daughter:

- Bol was stopped by Urbana police and cited for a driving infraction and for not having insurance.
- He was only ticketed, despite his lack of insurance and unresolved identity issues.
- He failed to appear in court, did not pay his fines, and no follow-up action was taken by the State of Illinois.
- Why did these violations not trigger further review, enforcement, or notification to appropriate authorities?
- Why was a person who did not appear in court and ignored legal obligations allowed to continue driving on Illinois roads?
- What systems failed so completely that no warning signs resulted in no intervention—until my daughter was killed?

3. Language, Assimilation, and Integration

As stated above, we learned that Bol does not speak English or Spanish, and cannot read or write in any language, and that his primary language is K'iche' an Indigenous Mayan language spoken in the mountainous regions of Guatemala. This language is not derived from Spanish, is not mutually intelligible with Spanish, and qualified interpreters are often difficult to secure.

- What programs were intended to support language acquisition, cultural integration, or basic community orientation for individuals who do not speak English?
- How does the State assess whether integration efforts are effective when an individual remains unable to communicate, read, or write after years of residence?
- How were agencies able to communicate meaningfully with him given this extreme language barrier?

4. Education and Workforce Development

Through an interpreter, Bol stated he had no formal education in any language.

- What procedures exist to assess educational background upon arrival?
- Was he ever referred to adult-education, literacy, or job-training programs?
- If no such referrals occurred, was the expectation that he would remain indefinitely supported by taxpayer-funded assistance?

5. Identity, Alias Use, and Basic Screening Failures

Julio Cucul-Bol, a Guatemalan national, was using the alias "Juan Jahaziel Saenz-Suarez," identifying himself as a Mexican national. Federal law-enforcement authorities were aware of this identity fraud.

- Why was an individual known to be using an alias allowed to remain in Illinois communities without meaningful verification?
- What identity-verification or background-check procedures were applied, if any?
- Would even a minimal background check—confirming true identity and nationality—have flagged Bol for further review or removal?
- If so, why were these basic steps not taken, and who bears responsibility for that failure?

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that had his true identity been properly verified, my daughter would still be alive.

6. Communicable Disease Screening and Public Health

In federal court on November 23, 2025, it was stated that Bol is currently receiving treatment through the Illinois Department of Corrections for an incurable communicable disease (HIV).

- What medical screening protocols were in place when he entered Illinois?
- How was he able to reside in our communities for years without documented testing, monitoring, or treatment?
- What procedures exist to ensure public-health safety when individuals with significant medical needs enter the state?
- What plan, if any, existed to ensure he had access to appropriate medical care while also protecting the public?

7. Cooperation with Federal Authorities

- Why does Illinois refuse to fully cooperate with federal authorities when federal law enforcement was already aware that this individual was using an alias and misrepresenting his nationality?
- Why were these warnings effectively ignored?
- The man who killed my daughter was not labeled the "worst of the worst," yet he killed two people and injured three others. Why are we refusing cooperation with federal authorities that could have prevented this?

8. Policies, Safeguards, and Oversight

- What background checks, identity-verification controls, and screening processes were in place at the time of my daughter's death?
- Were these processes ever audited internally or by an independent body?
- If such processes were absent or knowingly bypassed, how is this legislative and executive failure being addressed?

9. Monitoring and Financial Support

- What systems were being used to understand who was residing in Illinois and under what identity?
- How were illegal individuals financially supported, and how much taxpayer money has been allocated since sanctuary policies were enacted?

It is deeply painful to consider that the taxes we paid may have supported the man who killed our daughter.

10. Lack of Outreach and Accountability

- Why has no representative of the State of Illinois, nor you, the Governor, reached out to our family?
- How can this indifference—and the disrespect Illinois has shown towards Katie's life—be remedied?

11. Preventing Future Tragedies

Most of our family lives in the Chicagoland area. We are deeply concerned that another family will suffer a similar loss.

- What specific actions can be taken in Springfield, Cook County, and Chicago to ensure identity verification, lawful cooperation, traffic-law enforcement, and community safety?
- If one of your own children were killed by someone who was driving drunk, using an alias, ignoring court orders, and shielded by policy failures, what reforms would you demand?
- How can I help ensure that Katie's death leads to real change rather than silence?

This letter records a fatal breakdown of government responsibility. My daughter's death was not inevitable; it was the foreseeable result of ignored warnings, abandoned safeguards, and policy choices.

The State of Illinois must answer for these failures and act decisively to ensure they are never repeated. Anything less is an abdication of duty.

As we approach the first anniversary of Katie's killing on January 19, 2025, the continued indifference shown by the State of Illinois—no outreach, no explanation, no acknowledgment of her life—has compounded our grief. The silence from those entrusted with public safety communicates that her life was not valued enough to warrant even a conversation about why she had to die under these immigration and enforcement policies.

It is precisely because of that indifference that this letter must be sent. The failures documented here were foreseeable, preventable, and fatal. The State of Illinois owes my family—and every law-abiding resident—clear answers, accountability, and immediate corrective action.

I expect a substantive response by Monday, January 19, 2026.

Sincerely,

Joe Abraham

Glenview, Illinois Cell: -----

Email: -----

(End of letter)

My best,

Eli

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Daily Growler · Jan 27
Eli: thank you for not letting go of this tragedy, and for reminding us. If you are so inclined, I suggest you share your post and information about Katie Abraham with Walter Kirn or Matt Taibbi. On their biweekly podcast, America This Week, they discuss similar issues thoughtfully, without ideological blinders, and I'm hopeful that Walter may have some thoughts about how to amplify the message.

1 reply

Jayne · Jayne's Substack Jan 27
This is so sad. The untimely death of a beautiful young woman at the hands of an irresponsible leader - Governor Pritzker. This man has no conscience. He's a fraud. I've seen him speak on TV news, pretending to have a big heart when blabbering about how unfair it is to catch and deport illegal immigrant criminals. There is no justice when he allows for his ideological positions and quest of personal power to override the safety of the citizens he is supposed to protect. UGH!

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They Tried to Ignore Us — But We Will Not Be Silent

JOE ABRAHAM
FEB 28, 2026

31 Likes, 7 Comments, 7 Retacks, Share, More

On February 23, 2026, I sat inside the White House as President Donald Trump signed the [National Angel Family Day Proclamation](#).

For the first time in years, Angel Families were not invisible.

That moment was not about partisanship. It was about recognition. It was about publicly acknowledging a truth too many powerful institutions work hard to soften, reframe, or ignore: American lives have been lost because elected officials chose ideology over public safety.

And too often, the media has helped shield those decisions from scrutiny.

The Manufactured Silence

Major networks that present themselves as defenders of democracy — CNN, CBS, ABC, NBC, and MSNBC — gave little meaningful attention to the proclamation or to the families it honored.

That silence matters.

Because when institutions that shape public perception decline to cover uncomfortable consequences of immigration policy failures, those policies are never seriously examined. They are insulated. Protected. Normalized.

Angel Families are reduced to footnotes. Our children become statistics. Our grief becomes politically inconvenient.

When coverage does occur, it is often accompanied by disclaimers meant to neutralize impact: "Crime happens everywhere." "Citizens commit crimes too." "Immigration status doesn't define a person."

All technically true.

All completely beside the point.

Katie's Life — And a Preventable Death

My daughter Katie was 20 years old.

She was stopped at a red light in Urbana, Illinois, when the vehicle she was riding in was struck from behind at nearly 80 miles per hour. The driver fled the scene.

Katie never came home.

The man responsible, Julio Cucul-Bol, had previously been deported. He re-entered the United States and was living in Illinois under a false identity. Illinois maintains sanctuary policies championed by Governor JB Pritzker that limit cooperation between state authorities and federal immigration enforcement.

This is not abstract debate. It is a chain of decisions.

Bol was known to federal authorities. He had re-entered after deportation. He used an alias. Yet he was able to live and drive in our community.

He is now incarcerated and currently receiving treatment for HIV — a condition he had while living in our communities. This is not about stigma. It is about systemic negligence. Were proper screenings conducted? Were identification safeguards enforced? How did someone who reportedly could not read or write English or Spanish obtain a driver's license?

These are not cruel questions. They are governance questions.

Katie did not get treatment.
Katie did not get protection.
Katie did not get a second chance.

The False Equivalency

We are constantly told there is "no difference" between a citizen committing a crime and someone unlawfully present committing one.

There is a difference.

One had a legal right to be here.
The other did not.

When someone who was previously deported returns and takes a life, that is not random tragedy. That is preventable failure.

Acknowledging that distinction is not hatred. It is accountability.

To erase that distinction is to erase the preventability of the loss — and to deny families the right to ask why safeguards failed.

When There Is No Accountability, There Is No Correction

Public policy is supposed to be evaluated by results.

If a policy works, it continues.
If it causes harm, it is re-examined, paused, or adjusted.

That is responsible governance.

But when media institutions refuse to hold leaders accountable — when they decline to scrutinize the consequences of sanctuary policies or de facto open-border enforcement failures — those policies become immune from correction.

Without accountability, reckless immigration policies will never be seriously re-evaluated.

They will never be paused.
They will never be adjusted when evidence shows they are doing more harm than good.

Instead, they are defended reflexively. Shielded from examination. Reframed as compassionate regardless of outcome.

A functioning republic depends on tension between power and scrutiny. When that tension disappears, ideology replaces evidence. And when ideology replaces evidence, preventable harm continues.

Families like mine pay the price.

Stop Erasing Our Children

The refusal to meaningfully engage these stories is not neutrality. It is narrative control.

Katie was not an abstract policy debate. She was laughter in our kitchen. She was plans half-written. She was a future erased in seconds because systems designed to protect the public failed.

National Angel Family Day was a moment of recognition inside the White House. But recognition is only the beginning.

We demand accountability.
We demand transparency.
We demand that policies be judged by outcomes — not intentions.

If leaders are never forced to confront the consequences of the systems they defend, nothing changes. If media institutions refuse to investigate preventable deaths tied to immigration enforcement failures, those failures will never be corrected.

Silence is not neutrality.
Silence is protection.

And protection of bad policy ensures repetition of bad outcomes.

Katie should be alive.

If we cannot speak honestly about preventable loss — if we cannot demand re-examination when policies produce avoidable tragedy — then we are not serious about protecting our citizens.

They tried to ignore us.

They cannot erase us.

And until accountability becomes unavoidable, we will continue to speak — not in anger alone, but in relentless insistence that American lives are never politically expendable.

Support Joe Abraham

Launched 21 days ago

I'm Joe Abraham, Angel Dad to Katie Abraham. My daughter was killed by an illegal alien in a preventable drunk driving crash. I write to honor Katie, demand border security, and fight for accountability so no other family suffers this loss.

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jc kidd · jc kidd · Mar 2 · I am so sorry this happened to your family... May God keep giving you strength, comfort & peace 🙏

FoxyHeterodoxy (Debra C) · Misinformation Musings · Mar 2 · Joe, I am honored to be able to follow you. Your voice is strong and unflinching in bringing the circumstances of your daughter's death to light. I featured your dear daughter Katie in my most recent Substack article where I highlighted numerous victims killed by illegal immigrants: https://foxyheterodoxy.substack.com/p/americans-killed-by-illegal-immigrants?utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=web

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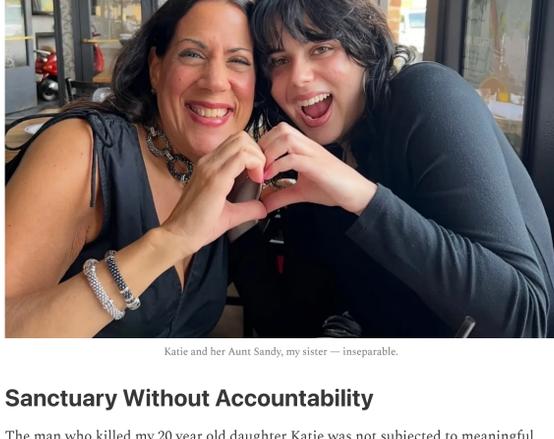
Untethered by Hypocrisy: When Compassion Becomes a Slogan and Citizens Pay the Price

JOE ABRAHAM
MAR 04, 2026

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January 19, 2025 altered my family forever. A man who was in this country illegally — who, by any reasonable expectation of law and order, should not have been in Illinois — committed a crime that shattered our lives. I have longed for the days before that preventable tragedy: when my family was whole, when my greatest worry was balancing work and watching my children grow. I continue to work. I continue to pay the heavy taxes Illinois demands. But the joy that once defined our lives was stolen from us.

In the months since, as I've paid closer attention to our state and nation, one realization has become inescapable: too many government officials and activists operate untethered from the basic principle of consistency. They are unbothered by hypocrisy. Policies fail. Citizens suffer. And yet the policies remain — unexamined, uncorrected, and unquestioned.



Katie and her Aunt Sandy, my sister — inseparable.

Sanctuary Without Accountability

The man who killed my 20 year old daughter Katie was not subjected to meaningful background checks or sufficient vetting before settling in our communities. Under the sanctuary policies embraced by JB Pritzker and other Illinois leaders, cooperation between local authorities and federal immigration enforcement has been sharply limited. These policies are defended as humane and compassionate.

But compassion without accountability becomes negligence.

Illinois officials argue that such measures protect vulnerable communities and reflect the state's values. Critics argue that they also shield individuals who have violated immigration laws and, in some cases, gone on to commit serious crimes. That tension deserves serious, ongoing evaluation. Instead, it is often met with slogans.

There is also a deeper moral concern. It is dishonorable to provide special privileges to those who have violated immigration laws at the direct expense of citizens and legal residents who follow the rules, pay taxes, and uphold the social contract. A just system cannot elevate one group by diminishing another.

In practice, many illegal immigrants are afforded benefits, protections, and policy consideration that exceed what tax-paying citizens and lawful residents experience. They are often insulated from federal enforcement, granted access to services, and shielded from cooperation between agencies — while citizens shoulder rising costs, strained public resources, and the consequences of policy failure. When those who entered unlawfully appear to enjoy more of the social contract than those who sustain it, trust in government erodes.

When members of Congress debated sweeping federal legislation — what some supporters dubbed the "Big Beautiful Bill" — Governor Pritzker warned that people would die if it passed. Death, he argued, was reason enough to defeat it outright. The logic was absolute: if policy leads to preventable death, it must be stopped.

But what happens when state policies correlate with preventable harm? When tragedies occur in communities governed by sanctuary laws, is there the same urgency to reconsider? Is there a pause? A recalibration?

Too often, there is silence.

A moral good pursued for an immoral reason is not moral at all. If the goal is political leverage, electoral advantage, or ideological purity rather than the flourishing and safety of all residents, then even policies labeled "compassionate" become morally compromised. Means matter. Motives matter. Outcomes matter.

Policies that affect public safety should never be ideological trophies. If preventable harm is even plausibly linked to public policy, leadership demands review — not defensiveness. To refuse reassessment while condemning others for similar risks is the definition of hypocrisy.

The Front-End Failure and the Back-End Reality

Part of the problem is structural. For years, our nation has lacked coherent, consistently enforced front-end immigration policies. Border security, visa tracking, asylum standards, and interior enforcement have too often operated in contradiction or neglect.

During the administration of Joe Biden, critics argue that enforcement priorities shifted and deterrence weakened while border encounters surged. Whether one views those decisions as necessary reform or misguided leniency, the reality remains: when the front end lacks clarity and enforcement, instability follows.

When front-end systems are inconsistent or politically paralyzed, the consequences do not disappear — they accumulate.

And when accumulation reaches a breaking point, the back-end cleanup is always far more difficult.

Interior enforcement actions, removals, expanded detention capacity, and overwhelmed immigration courts are not signs of a healthy system. They are signs of deferred responsibility. Cleaning up years of policy incoherence is painful. It strains communities. It divides families. It ignites protests. But it is also, at times, necessary if the rule of law is to mean anything at all.

It is dishonest to decry the turbulence of enforcement while ignoring the negligence that made enforcement necessary. A government that declines to maintain clear front-end standards cannot credibly complain about the difficulty of restoring order on the back end.

Activism, Idolatry, and the Politics of Chaos

The pattern extends beyond elected officials.

In recent months, activists have accused federal immigration authorities of terrorizing communities. They frame enforcement operations as existential threats. Yet some of these same activists deploy tactics designed to provoke confrontation and inflame tensions, particularly in election cycles.

If the stated goal is peace and dignity for immigrant communities, why embrace methods that heighten instability?

Hypocrisy flourishes when the means contradict the message.

The rhetoric often invokes faith as justification. Jesus' teachings on compassion for the marginalized are cited frequently. But discussions rarely include the broader biblical themes of order, responsibility, and lawful authority. Scripture speaks both of mercy and of structure — of loving the stranger and of respecting governing institutions.

A serious moral conversation would hold those ideas in tension. Instead, they are selectively quoted, trimmed to fit modern political preferences.

And beyond policy lies a deeper warning: no one should follow fallen men and women as though they are moral absolutes. Politicians, activists, commentators — all are flawed. When we attach ourselves uncritically to personalities or parties, we will inevitably be disappointed and deceived. Worse, blind loyalty to imperfect leaders can become destructive, excusing wrongdoing and perpetuating harm in the name of tribal allegiance.

Citizenship requires discernment. Conscience cannot be outsourced.

Selective Outrage

Consider the recent demonstrations in Minnesota following two tragic deaths. No one should lose their life to violence or neglect. Public protest is a protected right, and grief is powerful.

But where were many of these same voices during the height of border instability under the Biden administration and Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas? Where were the marches for migrants who died en route, who were trafficked, exploited, or abandoned in dangerous conditions? Where was the sustained outrage for the suffering at the southern border when it was politically inconvenient?

When compassion appears only when it advances a preferred narrative, it ceases to be compassion at all. It becomes ideology.

Ideology, when elevated above human consequences, becomes a north star that blinds rather than guides.

The Cost of Never Re-Examining Failure

Government is not a religion. Policies are not sacred texts. They are human constructions, and human constructions require revision when evidence demands it.

Sanctuary laws, border protocols, enforcement priorities, funding decisions — all of it should be subject to rigorous, ongoing scrutiny. If outcomes contradict intentions, leaders must adapt. That is not weakness; it is responsibility.

The tragedy my family experienced cannot be undone. Nothing will restore what was taken. But what compounds the pain is watching leaders and activists refuse to even ask whether their policies contributed to harm. Watching them denounce opponents for potential risks while ignoring real-world consequences at home.

Hypocrisy erodes trust. And when trust in institutions collapses, the damage radiates outward — into neighborhoods, schools, churches, and families.

Public office demands moral coherence. Activism demands intellectual honesty. And citizens must resist the temptation to treat any political figure as infallible. Following fallen men and women without question will not save a nation. It will only multiply disappointment and deepen destruction.

My family's story is not a statistic. It is not a talking point. It is a reminder that policies are not abstractions; they shape real lives.

If leaders will not re-examine what is failing — if they will not tether their passion to consistency, their ideals to outcomes, and their rhetoric to reality — then they are not practicing moral leadership.

They are practicing hypocrisy.

And families like mine are left to live with the consequences.

Support Joe Abraham

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I'm Joe Abraham, Angel Dad to Katie Abraham. My daughter was killed by an illegal alien in a preventable drunk driving crash. I write to honor Katie, demand border security, and fight for accountability so no other family suffers this loss.

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We all share my daughter Katie’s legacy — and her death must still mean something

JOE ABRAHAM
OCT 31, 2025



My late daughter, Katie Abraham, touched many lives, each in their own way. She had friends from every walk of life. She was kind, empathetic and endlessly curious. She made people feel seen and valued. Then her life was stolen by a criminal immigrant in the country illegally.

And she was also a young woman with a deep sense of fairness — someone who believed in rules, accountability and justice. She wanted things done the right way, not the easy way.

That’s why I have supported and continue to support the Donald Trump administration’s “Operation Midway Blitz,” the mission launched in her honor. Contrary to some of the criticism about it, this mission is not political. It is moral. It is to prevent what happened to Katie from happening to anyone else. This will be only a small part of Katie’s legacy, but I’m proud to honor the beauty of her through this mission.

Katie’s death was preventable. She was killed by a man, Julio Cucul Bol, who entered and remained in our country illegally. He was using multiple aliases, exploiting gaps in an overwhelmed and disorganized immigration system. Illinois’ sanctuary law allowed this monster to roam free. He should have been removed long before he could take my daughter’s life.

It would be unjust and unreasonable to separate my family’s loss from the policies that failed us. We did everything right. We worked hard, obeyed the law, paid our taxes and trusted that government would protect us in return. That trust was broken. Our leaders — from the governor’s office on down — have not treated immigration as a matter of public safety or national security.

My parents immigrated legally to this country in the 1960s. They worked hard to build a life here, and they taught me to respect those who follow the same path. I reject the false idea that demanding order and accountability is anti-immigrant. But when politicians open the back door, creating a haven for criminals and rewarding behavior that puts American lives at risk, we all suffer, American citizen and legal immigrant alike.

Illinois’ leaders undermined our nation’s immigration system, unleashing chaos on our streets. My family and thousands of other angel families have become collateral damage to a reckless experiment of sanctuary cities and states. That is not compassion. That is exploitation.

For families like ours, there is no “due process.” Katie didn’t get one. We are serving a life sentence of grief, while those responsible for the conditions that allowed this tragedy to occur have faced no accountability.

When we cried out for justice, we were met with silence. No calls returned, no statements issued, no genuine empathy offered, just bureaucratic coldness. It’s as though my daughter’s tragic death was just a bad data point on a spreadsheet.

What I have left of Katie is a dream, a legacy and a voice. And I’ll use that voice to keep her memory alive and make this nation a better place for America’s future. If even just one life is saved because of her story, then I know my Katie would be proud that I spoke up. And I’ll never stop fighting for her.

As parents, we all process grief in different ways. The best way I know to honor my daughter is to help prevent other families from living this nightmare. To honor her memory truthfully, we must hold on to that part of who she was, too.

So, when people speak of Katie’s legacy, I ask only that they remember all of her — not just the parts that fit a particular political message. She stood for compassion, and she had a deep sense of fairness. She believed in rules, accountability and justice. To honor her, we must reflect that same balance: kindness with accountability, empathy with lawfulness.

Katie would have supported a system where people could come to this country, live the American Dream, embrace our culture. But she’d also want to live in a world where her family and friends were safe — where her children could play outside without fear.

Operation Midway Blitz, at its heart, is about restoring that balance. It seeks an immigration system that is both humane and secure. That’s what Katie would have wanted: a country that keeps its promises, a state that safeguards its citizens and leaders who put their people first.

Her death cannot be in vain. Her legacy belongs to all who loved her — and to a nation that still has the power to learn from its mistakes.

Originally published in the Chicago Tribune on October 31, 2025. Read the original here: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/10/31/opinion-katie-abraham-operation-midway-blitz-2/>.

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When Compassion Becomes Silence: The Preventable Death of Our Daughter, Katie

 **JOE ABRAHAM**
MAR 19, 2026

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The night of January 19, 2025, split our lives into a before and an after.

Our daughter, Katie Abraham, should still be here—laughing at the dinner table, texting friends, planning the ordinary moments that make up a life. Instead, we live with an absence that echoes through every room.

Katie died at the hands of a drunk driver, Julio Cucul-Bol—a man who had already been deported once, who was living under aliases with false documents, and who, despite not being able to read, write, or speak English or Spanish and communicating instead in a Mayan language known as K'iche', was still issued a driver's license in Illinois.

Today he is incarcerated and receiving medical care for his incurable communicable disease, HIV.

Our daughter is gone forever.

Nothing will bring Katie back. What deepens the pain is knowing that her death was not the result of some unavoidable twist of fate. It was the result of a chain of preventable failures—choices and policies that, however well-intended, did not protect the very people they were meant to serve.

Katie's death represents something even more troubling: a complete breakdown of systems that are supposed to protect the public. And that breakdown did not end the night she died. It is still happening today.

Our grief is not political. It is the grief of parents trying to understand how something so avoidable was allowed to happen.

Yet Illinois politicians who champion sanctuary policies have continued to ignore our unimaginable loss. This silence is not empathy. Compassion built on humanity does not look like this.

And that willful silence should be condemned.

The politicians who promote sanctuary policies in the name of compassion have failed not only our daughter, but Bol as well. He was allowed into Illinois without meaningful background checks, health screenings, language support, or job-training assistance. This is not real compassion—it is abandonment disguised as virtue.

Bol was allowed into our state with no real pathway to integration. No bridges were built to help him become part of society. Instead, he was simply placed within it and left to navigate a world he could not understand.

This kind of faux compassion leaves everyone vulnerable.

What happened to Katie was not simply the result of one man's terrible decision to drink and drive. It was the result of systemic failures—failures in policy, oversight, and accountability by the State of Illinois. A system that should have protected both its citizens and the immigrants it welcomed instead failed them both.

And that system remains unchanged today.

Illinois politicians have used immigration policies to artificially inflate a declining population. Rather than confronting the difficult question of why residents were leaving the state in large numbers—and correcting the policies driving that exodus—they chose an easier path: allow anyone in, without meaningful safeguards for either citizens or immigrants.

When systems are built without guardrails, tragedy eventually follows.

The preventable result is that our daughter is no longer with us.

Bol sits in prison.

And our elected leaders remain unaccountable to the policies that helped make this tragedy possible.

Our family never asked to be placed in this position—to speak publicly about policies often championed by politicians whose interests seem more political than personal. We are not tethered to any party or ideology. Our values were never built around politics. They were built around responsibility, fairness, and doing what is right.

All our lives we tried to live that way.

We were productive members of our community. We followed the law. We paid the heavy taxes asked of us and honored the social contract we believed bound us together as a society.

We believed that if everyone met their obligations, society would meet its obligations in return.

And yet we are left asking a question no parent should ever have to ask:

Why did our daughter have to die a violent death on the streets of Illinois?

What deepens the wound further is the painful feeling that Katie's killer received more protection and consideration from that same social contract than our family did. By doing everything the right way, we lost our daughter. By doing everything the wrong way, he was still given chances, services, and consideration that Katie will never again have.

In the wake of Katie's death, our family has found itself in a crucible—a painful place that has reshaped our lives in ways we never imagined. We are wandering through a kind of dark wilderness, trying to discover what purpose remains after believing that Katie would always be with us.

Our character is tested every day as we search for a path forward without the joy of her smile, her sense of humor, and the quick wit that brightened every room she entered.

Anyone who knew Katie knows how easily she could light up a room. She had a natural warmth that made people feel welcome and seen. She laughed easily. She cared deeply about others. She had the kind of quiet strength and humor that made ordinary days feel brighter.

The loss of that presence is something our family carries every single day.

In those first months after her death, we believed compassion would come from both sides of the political aisle. Grief like this should never belong to politics. It should belong to humanity.

But that hope quickly faded.

The only voices that offered us comfort came from those without real influence or power in our one-party state. Fourteen months after Katie's killing, the leaders who govern Illinois remain silent.

In June 2025, I sat through an eight-hour oversight committee hearing on sanctuary policies just feet away from Governor JB Pritzker and other Democratic leaders. For hours we listened as policy arguments and political talking points filled the room.

Yet not once was Katie's story acknowledged.

Not once was her name spoken by her own governor.

The silence—and at times the dismissive tone surrounding her death—was shocking.

In that moment it became painfully clear why.

Acknowledging Katie's loss would mean confronting the systemic failures that helped make it possible. It would mean recognizing that the human cost of policy decisions is not abstract. It is measured in lives, in families, and in futures that never get the chance to unfold.

And so our family received no compassion from those who speak most loudly about compassion.

We were left to confront a troubling truth: in today's political climate, compassion can be conditional. It depends on whether your story fits comfortably within a political narrative.

When politics eclipses a citizen's suffering, it becomes impossible to separate public policy from very personal tragedy.

We cannot bring Katie back. Nothing written here will ever fill the space she left behind in our lives. There will always be an empty chair at the table. There will always be moments when we instinctively reach for the phone to call her before remembering that we cannot.

But silence guarantees only one thing: that another family may one day stand where we now stand—staring at that same empty chair and asking the same impossible questions.

This is not about vengeance.

It is not about political victory.

It is about honesty and accountability in the policies that shape our communities and our safety.

A truly compassionate society must be willing to look at tragedy with clear eyes and ask difficult questions:

Could this have been prevented?
Were warning signs ignored?
Are policies protecting the public as they are intended to do?

And if the answers reveal systemic failures, then leaders must have the courage to fix them.

Katie was more than a headline. More than a statistic. More than a story some would rather avoid because it complicates a political argument.

She was our daughter.

She was loved.

She mattered.

If her life is to mean something beyond our grief, then the least we can do as a society is learn from what happened—and ensure that the failures that led to her death are not repeated.

No family should have to pay the price we have paid just to remind those in power that compassion must extend to everyone—including the innocent lives that policies are meant to protect.

And until the systemic breakdown that failed Katie is honestly confronted and corrected, the risk remains that another family in Illinois will one day endure the same unimaginable loss.

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