

I really don't even know where to begin. Losing Max has been the hardest thing I've ever had to face and definitely not anything I would have ever imagined happening. Max was the first friend that I ever had that truly made me feel wanted. I really met the real Max when I started working at Freddy's. I had had a class with him before but I really didn't know him. I remember when I started at Freddy's he was always on the grill. Not only was he the best at making the steak burgers, but he also was HILARIOUS the entire time he did it. From there I had the blessing of becoming closer with Max. One thing that shined about Max was that he was a total comedian while also being able to be insanely serious and logical. We could joke around about the funniest things and then have a serious conversation about our beliefs. He was a very smart young man. One thing he was huge on was respecting women and I can remember that being one of the first things I really learned about his beliefs. After becoming closer to Max it was clear that his mom really engrained that sort of thing into him from a young age. Not only did Max's parents raise him with great qualities and beliefs, but the one thing that I can say that stood out more than anything was his loyalty. Max always had my back during his senior year while I was a year younger than him. Max showed me that it is okay to be yourself and if someone doesn't like you for being you then well... it doesn't matter in the slightest. You could catch this dude dancing in the hallways or saying really random things to confuse people in conversation while making everyone laugh because he was so quick with a joke. Not only was he quick with a joke, but he never missed. I genuinely cannot remember a time that one of his jokes didn't land. I had the opportunity of moving out with Max. We got our first apartment and as many know it as 309. In that apartment we shared so many memories with each other and a lot of great people. We had our ups and downs over the years but we always managed to find ourselves back together and with a stronger friendship than ever. We were able to set aside any differences and meet in fellowship, always having a great time. Over the last year of so of Max's life it was so clear that he was growing as a person and really starting to figure out what he wanted in life. It was beautiful. It hurts so badly to know that someone that bright and kind could be treated so HORRENDOUSLY in their darkest hour. I 100% believe with all of my heart that Max was going to figure out how to be a self made man and get out of the 9-5 as it was something we had talked about since we worked at AutoZone in 2020.

I want you to think about the most special person you know. The kind of person who would do anything for you. The kind of person who would give you the shirt off of their back. The guy who would rush to help you change a blown out tire because you were freaking out and didn't know what to do. The kind of person who puts a new meaning to loyal. Now imagine that person being abused mentally and physically and in their darkest hour being pushed to end their life. Does that make you angry? Does that make you sad? Does that make you sick? Does that make you enraged? Because I can tell you that everyone who loved Max has been hurt in more ways than comprehendable by this and it pains me to think of the hurt he was

experiencing during this time. I do truly believe that if those messages were not sent to him, then he would still be here today. I know he would have worked through things as he was taking the right steps to do so. He had an appointment set up with a therapist only two days later but because of those texts he didn't get the help he needed.

Now let me ask you this. Why in the state of Kansas was that person who urged him to end his life not held accountable for their actions? It's because it is not in Kansas law. The fact that it is not already is Kansas Legislation infuriates me. It seems like common sense that if someone is crying for help and you push them to end their life, should they not be held accountable? Well I guess common sense clearly is not that common if someone has the heart to do something like that. The death of Max Coleman will forever be a weight on not only myself but everyone who loved him. We always hear that everyone is special and everyone is unique in their own way, but I'm telling you Max put a whole new meaning to that. The amount of people he touched is actually crazy. The impact he had on so many peoples lives is unbelievable.

As time goes on we are seeing a huge number of people babysitting their kids with tablets. Phone addictions are bad enough for teenagers and adults, but now Americans are getting their kids hooked on a false reality from a very young age. All this is doing is creating generations who do not know how to be social because they are babysat my YouTube and random applications on their devices. This is setting us up to create generations of self absorbed NARCISSISTS. Things are already bad enough as they are and I am confident that it is going to get much worse. That is a huge reason to make it illegal in Kansas to push someone to commit suicide. As generations become more and more self absorbed and living through their phones we are only going to see an even bigger increase in keyboard warriors, people who say HORRIBLE things online because they are protected by their screens. By putting this legislation, in place, we can save lives of people who are going through things just like Max did. However, this time we can show people that telling someone to end their life has consequences, and they will be held accountable. As the world gets darker and more evil, day by day, we need to put these laws into effect to save the lives of not only Kansans put people from people other states that do not have these laws put in place.

I am looking forward for this opportunity to not only share more about Max's story, but to also shed light onto an extremely serious issue that must be dealt with immediately.

Thank you,
Dakota Crane