

To Whom it may concern,

6255 days. Just a month and a half more than 17 years. Think of what all you have accomplished in 17 years. In that time, I have gone from being pregnant with my first child to that baby being a junior in high school now. I went from being a 23-year-old young adult, right out of college, to being a 40 years old mother to 5 children. I can only imagine the incredible things my sister would had accomplished over the last nearly 2 decades. Completing pharmacy school, marrying, having children of her own. However, in 17 years, there has ben nothing done to my sisters' killer, who was convicted of aggravated kidnapping, rape, aggravated criminal sodomy and capital murder. January 5, 2007 is a day that will forever be burned in my mind. Where I was, what I did, what I ate, what I wore, every single detail is forever engrained in my memory. That is the day that I learned my little sister, Jodi LeAnn Sanderholm, had gone missing. Over the next 4 days would be the biggest emotional roller coaster that you can only imagine. In 4 day's time I went from learning my sister was missing, to giving birth to my first child, a daughter, to ultimately learning that my sisters body had finally been found.

So many true crime documentaries and podcasts start by saying the victim lit up the room. That was especially true for my sister. She was the epitome of what every mother dreams of having as a daughter. Smart, responsible, kind, beautiful caring. The world was robbed of an incredible life that day in January 17 years ago, when Justin Thurber decided to kidnap her, torture, beat and sexually assault her for nearly 5 hours before ultimately murdering her by strangulation and blunt force trauma. Jodi had over 20 contusions on her head and was strangled multiple times. Seeing photos of my sisters lifeless, naked, bruised, beaten and violated body is something that I still see at night when I close my eyes 17 years later. Imagine that being your sister, your daughter, your granddaughter.

Before my sister was killed I don't think I really had an opinion one way or another on the death penalty. But hearing and seeing the evidence at the trial, a jury convicted Thurber and recommended the death penalty. A judge then sentenced Thurber to death in March 2009. Since then he has remained on death row and after years of extensions being granted to him and his attorneys, finally had an appeal hearing in June 2023. No decision has yet to be made on that appeal. As a defendant, Thurber was guaranteed the right to a speedy trial. As the family of a brutal and heinous crime, we are not given those same rights, to a speedy sentence. I absolutely agree that every case, especially death penalty cases, should be eligible for an appeal, to ensure everything was done correctly, no evidence was mistaken, but 15 years waiting on one appeal is by far extreme. House Bill 2782 proposing speeding up this process, because although we live in a world where criminals are still given rights, that does not mean that the victims and victims families rights should be neglected.

House Bill 2782 also introduces the use of nitrogen hypoxia as means of execution. Prior to last month I had never heard of this and upon researching I learned that after botched lethal

injection executions, Alabama would be administering the country's first hypoxia execution and followed that intently. From my research I did learn that hypoxia is considered one of the most painless ways to be executed. As always, the debate on the death penalty being inhumane is bound to come up during the discussion of this new House Bill. However, that is not what is being discussed at this time and the fact that our state has had the death penalty reinstated for 30 years this year and has not executed a single death row inmate shows that it's time to act. A vote for this bill is a vote for Jodi Sanderholm, Greenwood Co. Sheriff Matt Samuels, Brad Heyka, Jason Befort, Heather Muller, H.G., Aaron Sander, Andy Schreiber, Ann Walenta, 18-month old Lana Bailey, her mother Kaylie Bailey, Andrew Stout, Steven White, Carrie Williams, William Corporon, Reat Underwood, Terri LaManno, Karen, Emily, and Lauren Kahler, Dorothy Wight, Miki Martinez, Darren Wornkey, Suzette Trouten, Izabela Lewicka, Lisa Stasi, Sheila Faith, and Beverly Bonner. You should know these names. Each of these individuals were murdered by a Kansas death row inmate, and we, their families and loved ones, are asking for your help.

Jennifer Aldridge