
Rolf O.

Dear <in_sal>,

My name is Rolf. I am a husband, father, and pastor. I am also a member of a club that none of us ever wants to join—the club of gun violence survivors.

My daughter Katherine was always a risk-taker. She was adventurous and curious about the world. She loved theater, languages, and traveling. Once she even decided to join the circus and learned juggling and trapeze. My only question for her was: Do they have liability insurance? Like any father, I always wanted to protect my daughter.

In October 2007, Katherine was babysitting on the side to save money for graduate school. One day, she went to a house in town to answer an ad for a babysitter. She packed her regular toolbox—a backpack full of children’s toys—and was looking forward to a fun day of work. But when she got there, what she found was a 19-year-old man with his father’s pistol. In the blink of an eye, my daughter was taken from us forever.

As an American, I knew gun violence existed. But I never thought that it would touch my family. Most people don’t, until it’s too late.

Since that day, I have spoken about Katherine’s death from different angles. As a dad, I have talked about grief. As a pastor, I have talked about forgiveness. As a citizen, I have testified at the Minnesota Statehouse about the brokenness in our communities. I’ve urged those who represent us in the state Senate to support stronger gun laws.

But instead of fighting for the safety of families like mine, politicians like Warren Limmer have decided to side with the gun lobby, and block the common-sense gun laws that could help prevent tragedies and spare people trauma like ours.

Even as gun violence continues to devastate Minnesota families, Senate Republicans like Warren Limmer have blocked House-passed gun safety legislation for the second year in a row. Policies like background checks on all gun sales have been proven to save lives, yet Senate Republicans like Warren Limmer refused to even vote on the bill. We can’t trust Warren Limmer to protect us.

Four months after Katherine died, someone asked me how I was getting through this tragedy. My answer: I believe one day I will meet Katherine again. And I want to hear her say, in that voice that I miss so much, “Dad, you did great.” I want her to be proud of her old man.

So, I’m asking you to join me and vote NO on Warren Limmer for the state Senate. Minnesota families like ours and yours deserve real solutions to keep us safe.

We can answer fear with love. We can answer tragedy with hope. We can answer loss with compassion. And we can make real change happen. But only if we vote.

Sincerely,

Rolf