



## CASEY'S LAW

### Dear Families,

At the writing of this letter, it has been almost 17 years since the passage of Casey's Law in KY. Throughout those years, there have been hundreds of phone calls and emails from families across the country who have requested information about how to initiate Casey's Law in their state.

To begin with, what I did was talk. I talked to anyone and everyone, regardless of to who or where the message was being shared. I talked about Casey, his disease and the law that would allow families to intervene on their loved ones. What I was doing was acting out what I came to know as advocacy.

When Casey died, I was a mom on a mission, a mission that would provide families with a means of intervening, a means unavailable to us. In my attempt to complete that mission, I learned some things that may be of benefit to you who are reading this letter and may offer some hope that you can bring Casey's Law to your state.

What I can offer are some things I learned that you might find useful as you begin conversations with your legislators because that is where your most decisive action will begin, with the elected officials whose decisions impact your life and the lives of your loved ones. It took 2 legislative sessions for Casey's Law to pass the General Assembly in Kentucky. It began with my State Representative who was willing to introduce the bill in both sessions. During those two years, I took every opportunity to talk about Casey and the bill that became the law inspired by his life and death.

Despite my lack of experience and knowledge of the legislative process, I had three distinct advantages, **passion, purpose, and persistence**. Persistence was perhaps my greatest asset. However, that persistence was fueled by my passion and purpose. The combination of all three kept me in it for the long haul with no intention of giving up even though I was told it could take 5 years to get the law passed. Thankfully, it took only 2! The same could be true for you!

You have taken the first step in what might very well be the most challenging and rewarding journey of your life. You will not only be making a difference in the lives of other families, but you will be honoring the lives of all who have not had the opportunity to experience the joy of recovery.

Peace and blessings,  
Charlotte  
Casey's mom