



March 10, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Member
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Schumer:

We are writing to thank you for your strong leadership in introducing S.2614, *Kevin and Avonte's Law Act of 2015*, to combat the wandering-related injuries and deaths of those with developmental disabilities. We are in full support of this legislation.

As you may know, a 2015 report found that nearly one-third of school-age children with developmental disabilities wander each year. These incidents too often end in tragedy, and are a source of great concern for the children's families. By way of example, since 2011, almost 100 individuals with autism lost their lives after wandering from a safe environment.

Kevin and Avonte's Law will provide the necessary resources and training for first responders to better prevent and respond to these cases, and would facilitate the development of training and emergency protocols for school personnel and other community officials. The bill would also be used to establish or enhance notification and communication systems for the recovery of missing children with autism. These efforts will certainly serve as a critical step in addressing this growing public safety crisis.

Thank you for your dedication to protecting the safety and well-being of our country's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wiederlight". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "L" and "W".

Lisa Wiederlight
Executive Director