

Testimony for John Hauser

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It has been over three years since the passing of my friend John Hauser. There are so many things that I wish I could have said to him even now. I am currently in graduate school for counseling psychology. A large reason why I decided to become a mental health counselor is due to John's passing. I decided that I wanted to make a difference in the world that John would want me to make. John was such a kindhearted individual. Every time he would see me, he would run up and give me a hug and we would talk about how we are doing. Little did I know there was a lot more going on in his head than I could have ever imagined.

If John had access to mental health counseling, I believe he would still be here today. I wouldn't have to sit and wonder what I could have done to help him, my fraternity brothers would not have had to sit in disbelief and agony and most importantly, he would be here with his family. John gave so much to other people, he forgot to give to himself. John cared so deeply for everyone and would never hesitate to talk to you if you were feeling down. He carried a cross so large that he thought he could not carry it any longer, and he needed to open up to someone.

John and his family deserved to spend many more Christmases, Thanksgivings and Easters together. Anne and Al are such wonderful people. It is upsetting that I had to meet them under these circumstances, but I am so grateful to know people like them who so deeply care for others that they would advocate so heavily for those who are suffering.

With this bill, I hope we can save lives. That students can feel okay going to a counselor without fear of losing their flight privileges. That students can go home to their families and spend time with them. If you have children yourself, think about them, because you never know when today could be their last. If you could, wouldn't you want to see them? If you could, wouldn't you do anything in the world to protect them? Think about them. Thank you.