Julie Nordman Senate Committee Hearing Testimony 03-01-2017

Hello, my name is Julie Nordman and I was asked to speak you today following the tragic and preventable murder of my husband, Randy Nordman. Although this happened less than a year ago and the pain is still unbearable, this story starts nearly two decades ago.

The man who murdered my husband, Pablo Serrano-Vitorino, first encountered law enforcement in 1998 in California. He was here illegally and was charged with making a threat with the intent to terrorize. He plead guilty to disturbing the peace and spent three days in jail. He was allowed to remain in the US and between 1993 and 2003, he was arrested twice more for domestic violence. Then, in 2003, he pointed a rifle at the mother of this three children and threatened her life. Later that year, he was convicted on those felony charges and was sentenced to two years in prison. Following his release in 2004, he was deported for being in the United States illegally.

No one knows when he returned to the US, or how, but he did. And in November 2014, he was arrested in Kansas for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving without a License and Speeding. He pled guilty and again was allowed to remain in the United States. Then, less than a year later in June of 2015, he was arrested and charged with domestic battery. While being held at the County Jail, the sheriff's office notified Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] that he was in custody. Immigration is required to respond within a 4 hour deadline, yet, they failed to do so, and the Sheriff was required to release him. He later pled guilty to the charge and received a fine.

Only two months later, in August of 2015, he was again arrested for driving without a license. While at the municipal courthouse, he was fingerprinted and ICE issued a detainer for his immigration violation. However, because of their carelessness, ICE mistakenly sent the detainer paperwork to the incorrect location, and it never reached the proper authorities.

That brings you to my story. In the 18 months before the senseless murder of my husband, this killer has been in custody on three occasions, yet federal officials failed to detain or deport him. Had they just done their jobs and followed the laws, my husband would still be alive, and so would the four other innocent victims he brutally murdered.

On March 7, 2016 in Kansas City, Kansas, four men were found dead. Mike Capps, Jeremey Water, and brothers Clint & Austin Harter were Pablo's neighbors, and he murdered them, from what I've heard, over a parking spot. Authorities started a man hunt, but they didn't find him until it was too late.

On the early morning of March 8, 2016, my husband was getting ready for work. I was awoken from my sleep when I heard my husband shouting "What are you doing" and then he called out for me, "Julie! Julie!" I looked out the window into our garage and saw a man and my husband fighting over a rifle. I immediately grabbed my phone and called 911 as I ran to the attic. I was scared out of my mind and I whispered to 911 that we needed help. I asked them to hurry and then I prayed and prayed for Randy to be okay. I saw our dog at the top of the stairs and told 911 I was worried that the dog was going to give my location away. I then remember

Julie Nordman Senate Committee Hearing Testimony 03-01-2017

asking the operator if the gunman shot me, would it hurt? I tried to climb out the attic window, but it was stuck. So I stayed put. I also asked if I could go check on my husband, and they told me "no." But then, I heard a "pop." I heard the gunman rustle through our things and we believe he was trying to find car keys so he could steal one of our vehicles and continue fleeing from law enforcement.

I looked out the attic window and I saw a police car racing toward our house. But then, it raced on past our house. I told the dispatcher that the officer needed to turn around and that was when I saw the killer run across my property and jump face-first into a ditch to hide.

When the police arrived, I saw my husband on the kitchen floor, but I thought he was just unconscious. The police then escorted me out of the house. I kept screaming "Where is the ambulance" but they kept telling me it was a secured area. Officers told me they had located the man's vehicle right off the highway near our house and then showed me a picture to identify him. After I identified him, that's when the ambulance personnel came over and told me that my husband had passed away, and I just lost it.

They searched for him for 17 hours using dogs and what seemed like hundreds of policemen, and two helicopters but no one could find him. We later found out that he had been lying 800 feet from my house in the grass. He waited until it had gotten dark and then walked to a gas station where he tried to high jack someone else. However, because my husband had removed the clip from his gun, the killer's only remaining bullet was used on my husband. My husband was a hero for not only saving my life, but also saving all of the other people this man would have attacked. Authorities quickly apprehended the man near the gas station, and he's now in custody awaiting trial for the death of my husband.

Following the incident, I was never contacted by ICE or anyone else from the government to express their remorse. However, I read in the paper that ICE said they would monitor Randy's case and place a detainer on the man. They also said they "would remain focused on smart, effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes threats to national security, public safety and border security." I find their statement couldn't be further from the truth. Their actions were not smart, in 2015 they sent his detainer paperwork to the wrong place. Their actions were not effective, in 2015 they also failed to respond to the Immigration Query. They did not properly prioritize the threat; after this man was arrested on numerous occasions for violent crimes, he went on to kill five completely innocent men.

Not only has ICE failed us, but our borders have failed us. They are obviously wide open as this man was able to enter, not once, but twice, without being detected. But I suppose if your policy is to let them go even after you arrest them for committing violent crimes, why even secure the border at all?

If the ICE authorities had just done their jobs, Andrew Harter would still be alive. Clint Harter would still be a husband, and would have seen his second child being born. Mike Capps would still be alive. Jeremey Water would still be alive. And most importantly to me, my husband would still be here. Instead, every day that I'm at our house, I'm reminded of this tragic

Julie Nordman Senate Committee Hearing Testimony 03-01-2017

event. I wish you could bring my husband back, but we all know that can't happen. What you can do, is make sure that this doesn't happen to another innocent family in the future.

Also, before I go, I would just like to publically thank the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the nearby county officers, for catching and arresting this monster.