

Dear House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee Member,

My name is Jeanne Hanson-Colburn. I have resided for thirty-eight years in Archuleta County 18 miles from the county seat of Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

I am writing to you asking for your support (a **YES** vote) on SB16-034 Tampering With a Deceased Human Body.

At this time our Colorado Criminal code pertaining to tampering with physical evidence in an investigation, does not differentiate a human body from other physical evidence. Tampering with physical evidence is a class 6 felony. I believe a 3-year maximum sentence is simply not long enough for someone who has committed or helped cover-up a murder by using gruesome means to tamper with a human body.

We must significantly increase penalties for tampering with physical evidence in an investigation, especially is that evidence IS a HUMAN BODY. Tampering with a human body results in destruction of evidence, that critically hampers and investigation into the manner and cause of a homicide.

Current Colorado Criminal Code for Concealing a Death in our state reads: "Concealing the death of another person and thereby preventing a determination of the cause or circumstance of death is a class 1 misdemeanor." Concealing a person's remains could critically hamper an investigation into their death, so the punishment should reflect the significance of withholding that information.

On August 12, 2014, my son (my only child) Jesse James Hanson-Colburn, age 34 was murdered.

Kevin Dale Maxwell, murdered, then hid my son's body in a box truck on his own (Maxwell's) property for more than 24 hours; Maxwell then transported my son's body across almost 50 miles of back roads in Archuleta County, then dumped Jesse's body in the San Juan River close to where the San Juan flows into Navajo Reservoir. When first confronted by the Sheriff's Dept. regarding my son's whereabouts, Maxwell (last person known to see my son) claimed no knowledge of Jesse's whereabouts.

Two hikers in the lower San Juan River area stumbled across Jesse's body on Saturday afternoon, August 16, 2014, four days after he was murdered. Archuleta County Sheriff's Dept. personnel ascertained that where Jesse was found was staged to look like a drowning. Autopsy results proved them correct, Jesse died of blunt force trauma to his neck.

Sheriff's Dept. Personnel confronted Maxwell, who admitted killing Jesse and then claimed self-defense. This was AFTER the original crime scene had been sanitized (cleaned-up) by Maxwell. Much, much more forensic evidence was also lost because of my son's body being in the river water for so many days; burned by the sun, invaded by insects and other life forms.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

On 10/15/54, the Board of Directors met and discussed the proposed acquisition of the assets of the [Company Name]. The Board members present were [List of Names]. The following minutes were taken: [Detailed description of the meeting, including the discussion of the acquisition, the terms of the offer, and the Board's decision to accept the offer.]

The Board of Directors has approved the acquisition of the assets of the [Company Name] for the sum of \$[Amount]. The acquisition is to be completed by [Date].

The Board of Directors has also approved the terms of the offer, which include the payment of cash for the assets and the assumption of all liabilities. The Board has also authorized the management to execute all necessary documents to complete the acquisition.

The Board of Directors has also approved the appointment of [Name] as the representative of the Board in connection with the acquisition.

The Board of Directors has also approved the payment of the acquisition price to the [Company Name] and the assumption of all liabilities. The Board has also authorized the management to execute all necessary documents to complete the acquisition.

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Maxwell **did not** call '911' after he killed my son Jesse, instead Maxwell concealed my Jesse's body many, many hours, then drove many miles, (even past MY home) tied a rope around Jesse's neck and to a canoe, then dumped Jesse into the river.

Maxwell lied to me, the Sheriff's and Search & Rescue personal about Jesse's whereabouts; putting many lives at risk – the lives of numerous individuals (volunteers, friends) who participated in a misdirected and fruitless search for Jesse.

My son's body was so degraded, deteriorated, unrecognizable that I was not able (deprived) of seeing him, holding him, one last time. Can YOU imagine this being your child? The child you gave birth to, loved and nurtured, lived for and whose very essence nurtured you?

I wonder if those hikers hadn't stumbled on Jesse's body: Would the river have carried Jesse on to the lake, never to be found? Would Maxwell have maintained his lies?

Our district's Deputy D.A. (Alex Lowe) originally attempted to charge Maxwell with second degree murder, but was unable to collect enough evidence to prove to a jury, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Maxwell did not kill Jess in self-defense.

The D.A.'s office was able to prove the tampering charges (clean-up of primary crime scene, concealing, transporting and dumping Jesse's body)' Maxwell pled guilty to the tampering charges and received a 15-month prison sentence. District Judge Gregory Lyman made the tampering charges aggravated. Maxwell served 10 months in prison.

As the two-year anniversary of my son's murder approaches, I often reflect on the overwhelming support from family and friends; the diligence, patience and compassion of the D.A.'s Office, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Detectives and Deputies, and Archuleta County Search & Rescue. Our dedicated Victim's Advocates Services led me to Joe Cannata, founder of Voices of Victims, whose invaluable guidance combined the the prodigious efforts of the Colorado Victims for Justice Organization have helped me and my family continue to find the will and purpose to move forward.

Moving forward means effecting the necessary changes in our state's criminal code, so that other Colorado families won't have to endure the additional agony of seeing their loved one's murderer(s) receive a slap-on-the-wrist for concealing a homicide and then degrading and destroying their loved one's body.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Hanson-Colburn
57 Montezuma Circle
Pagosa Springs, Co 81147
970-264-6666
jhanson@dulceschools.com

The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee. The names are listed in alphabetical order, and the addresses are given in full, including street, city, and state.

The second part of the document is a list of the names and addresses of the members of the committee who have been appointed to the various subcommittees. The names are listed in alphabetical order, and the addresses are given in full, including street, city, and state.

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Very truly yours,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]