

Erica Choe  
[Ericachoe21@gmail.com](mailto:Ericachoe21@gmail.com)  
201-448-0700

To whom it may concern.

I'm Erica Choe, a current student at Harvard College and past student of Grace Yoo. My relationship with Grace Yoo began when I was studying SAT writing strategies in 10th grade. I now consider her a mentor and friend that I hope to know for the rest of my life.

We first began to know each other on a personal level when I had just become her college application mentee in 11th grade. This was before she became pregnant with Elliot and Mason. I learned about how she and her husband would do long commutes from Grace's mom's house in NJ and their home in NYC just to both share time with Hayden. It was clear to me that this time with Hayden was invaluable to her. Grace takes pride in her work, but there was never a question of choosing between family or work for her. She undoubtedly prioritized and valued every chance to see and take care of Hayden. Whether that meant staying up late doing essays must so she'd have time to make the commute and see Hayden, it was going to happen.

Her guidance and support were invaluable to me in navigating an especially difficult and stressful period in my life. College applications, the tumultuous evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the loss of my middle school friend, and my experiences as a volunteer EMT forced me to lean upon others as my support system, and no person was so stabilizing and kind as Grace. Without her, I'm confident that I would not be the compassionate, confident, and driven person I am today.

Once, Grace and I needed to discuss college prospects. She was pressed for time, so we did grocery shopping together. When looking at the boxed mac and cheese brands, there was "only one type" that Hayden especially liked (even when I was pointing out the ones with cartoon characters on the box). At the checkout aisle, she grabbed candy "for Hayden." It was clear that she attended to Hayden's interests and preferences in small and meaningful ways in addition to her prioritization of spending time with her.

Multiple times, Grace and I would be on facetime just reviewing college essay outlines. Hayden would oftentimes be on her lap, shyly looking at me and giggling through the screen. Sometimes I'd call Grace in the evenings, and she would decline my calls. She would then text me she was "putting Hayden to bed." Whenever at home with Hayden, Grace spends a considerable amount of quality time with her.

When Grace became pregnant with Mason and Elliot, she was elated. She and her husband had been trying for another baby and were happily blessed with twins. I don't remember at what point she learned and shared with me that the pregnancy was very dangerous for her health, but she did. We also learned that Elliot was not growing at the same pace as Mason. One of her treatment options offered was to terminate Elliot for the sake of bettering Mason's and her own health prognosis. She decided that her health was a risk worth taking to birth and meet Elliot. She saw the best specialists available to ensure the best possible monitoring and treatment for Elliot, Mason, and herself. When Elliot was born prematurely and underwent surgeries, she did long commutes to see Elliot as much as possible in the NICU. She took even more time off of work to take care of the twins.

By the time I visited NJ for spring break, Mason and Elliot were both brought home from the hospital. Grace and I did a grocery run together to Costco to catch up. I saw a box of Squishmellows (a stuffed toy) and pointed it out to Grace. Without hesitation, she put two Hello Kitty Squishmellows in the cart - one for me and one for Hayden. I picked the classic red design of Hello Kitty, and Grace grabbed the pink rainbow one with a unicorn horn "because Hayden loves that kind of stuff".

I then visited her new home in NJ for the first time to help her with her groceries. This was my first and only time being lucky enough to be in Mason and Elliot's presence. Grace's Mom and Dad were in the house, walking and speaking quietly to not disturb the twin's sleep. Grace encouraged me to see the twins. They were sleeping peacefully in comfortable and warm clothes, clearly beloved by everyone around them.

It is without a doubt that Grace is one of the most attentive, family-oriented, and caring mothers I have ever met. She values her time and interactions with Hayden, Mason, and Elliot above all. It breaks my heart that Hayden and Mason are separated from such a loving and supportive presence like Grace during a time of such grief, and I am devastated to know that anyone could doubt Grace's love. She posts Instagram stories almost exclusively of her children, emphasizing their personality and energy. She would send me photos of the twins and Hayden at random times just because she wanted to share them with the world. I have never been so certain of anything as I am in saying that Grace loves her children. They are her entire world, and she would never harm them.

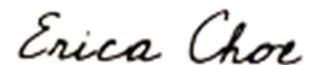
The accusations against Grace are deplorable and baseless. Though there are terrible mothers out there, Grace is not one of them. She is a mother who fiercely loves and cares for her children. The prosecution has prolonged Grace's grieving, stressed her children and family, and held her for over a year in jail. It saddens me that someone as kind, compassionate, and loving like Grace is going through this.

In cases like these, it's all too easy to shy away from the possibility of Grace being falsely accused. The prosecutors might believe they are pursuing justice for Elliot's passing, but they fail to recognize who Grace actually is. She is incapable of what they are accusing her of. The prosecution is currently facilitating another tragedy - An innocent mother being blamed for her son's death and kept from grieving with and supporting her family. Hayden and Mason deserve to have Grace's love at home where she could shower them with kisses and hugs.

Grace is also more than a mother - she is a wife, daughter, friend, mentor, and teacher. She has helped countless of students like myself with their personal and educational goals because of her unwavering desire to give and support the younger generation. Grace is the type of person to provide motherly guidance and love to those who need it. When Grace was denied bail, the prosecution denied the community someone truly valuable and full of light.

I hope, from the bottom of my heart, that the right action will be taken. I deeply pray that Grace's family is reunited as soon as possible so they could truly begin to heal from Elliot's passing and this traumatic legal situation.

Erica Choe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica Choe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grace Chan is a co-worker and parent at our children's elementary school. I would like to share what I know from my time spent with her.

Grace and I have worked together educating and taking care of children ages 3-4. She has been a warm and responsible teacher for the children entrusted to her. She was a teacher who did her best to teach with kindness, patience and a gentle heart.

As a co-worker, Grace was an optimistic and warm-hearted colleague. She was selfless and always offered help and encouragement to those around her.

I had the opportunity to know Grace as a mother while her first child (daughter) attended our kindergarten. Grace prioritized her child over herself. She traveled far and during times of high traffic, because she thought our school would be the best environment for her daughter.

After giving birth to twins, Grace was a happy and positive mother who always carried a bright smile. You wouldn't have been able to tell of any personal suffering or that one of her children were ill. When I heard the news, I admired Grace for overcoming her difficulties with gratitude and love.

In addition, Grace and her husband were model parents who provided immediate support at the teacher's requests. They were particularly involved and interested in their child's education and school life.

The prosecutors, the judges and the police involved have created unspeakable grief for Grace, her children and her family for a long time. I can't understand or reason the circumstances for the unjust delay in the proceedings. My heart is torn at the thought of it.

**It is unbearable to witness Grace and her family suffering from injustices and I strongly demand that her case be reviewed and judged once again. American laws are supposed to establish fairness and justice. Evidence would strongly suggest that Grace be acquitted.\*\* Review.**

As a fellow teacher, as a mother and as a law abiding citizen of the United States,

-Signature-

Hello,

I am Director Grace Nan Choi. I met Grace Chan as a colleague at work. After she married, she became a mother of three children and sent her first child to our kindergarten. I would first like to acknowledge the judge who is reviewing this case and is working hard for justice.

Grace Chan was the lead teacher for children ages 3-4. She was a patient and loving teacher who helped bilingual children develop physically and emotionally. Grace paid attention to each child individually. She was a wise teacher who listened to the children, understood their temperaments and helped them make right choices when solving problems. Grace was also a great colleague who actively helped with any activity. She had a great relationship with her co-workers and carried bright and positive energy.

When Grace sent her first child to our kindergarten, I had the opportunity to meet her again as a mother. We discussed at length about her daughter's development and potential needs. Grace was a great mother who was very interested in her daughter's school life and was interested in helping however she can. When Grace had her twins, I witnessed her play with them enthusiastically and she ensured that they never lacked in care or attention. One of her twins was born with a weaker body and she spared no effort to encourage both to grow healthily.

Grace was a working mother who was kind and sensitive. She diligently prepared all needs for her children. She cared about her child's day and would even ask if anything fun occurred in school for her children.

It is heartbreaking for such a harmonious and beautiful family to have suffered the tremendous loss of a child. As a mother and educator, it is impossible for me to comprehend a mother like Grace having to stay away from her young children.

For the judge, I earnestly ask for Grace Chan to receive a just judgment so that she can quickly return to the arms of her children, husband and family who are anxiously waiting.

Rainbow School LLC

Director Grace Nan Choi

-Signature-