

October 9, 2018

International Code Council Voting Council

Dear ICC Voting Members:

We are just a few of the 3,300 families with children 5 years old and younger who have experienced the unimaginable nightmare of having a child fall from a window in the U.S.A. annually. No family should ever experience something like this.

We are writing regarding your upcoming vote proposed changes to the national building codes for window safety (identified as E81-18 and E82-1). We are eager to see loopholes closed that will ensure family housing is safe for children. We don't want any other family to go through what we have. These are our stories:

Ami and Jason English:



**Evan** was 4 years old when he died after falling onto concrete from the window of military housing in Hawaii in 2011. We had just moved into the house only a little over 2 weeks prior to the accident. Evan and his brother climbed onto the window sill and opened the window to speak to their friend below. Evan leaned into the screen, and his body weight caused it to pop out. Evan's brother watched him fall, even reaching out to save him and bringing me band-aids, while asking me to fix his brother. This terrifying event has changed our lives forever. While, Evan's memory has been honored through the passing of Evan's Law in 2017 requiring window safety in military housing, we know that there is more that can be done to prevent window falls. It is the responsibility of all who hear this message, to help this cause.

While it is difficult to share this story, we feel it is our obligation to inform others of the great danger of window falls. Living without Evan is like living without a limb. You never get it back, yet we are learning, you have to either drown in your pain or help others. We never want another family to live with this daily pain, so please help Evan's story to not be repeated.

Ashley and Shane Reck:

**Parker** was 4 years old when he died after falling from the 2nd story window in our rental home in Oregon in 2009. We were having a house warming gathering. It was a warm day and the air conditioner had stopped working. We opened the window just a little to cool the room off. Parker climbed up and lost his balance falling 16 feet to concrete below. I witnessed my son fall and screamed for my husband. It all happened so fast, one minute my son was playing with his cousins full of life and 4 hours later he was gone. We never want another family to relate to our story, *please* learn from it. We learned in the worst possible way that we are not exempt from tragedy. Preventable accidents happen, don't let it happen to you. Learn from us!



We co-founded Stop at 4": The Campaign to Stop Window Falls ([www.stopat4.com](http://www.stopat4.com)) in 2011 to honor Parker's memory and bring education and awareness to other families.

Becca and Jason Cunningham:



**Thomas** was 3 years old when he fell from his bedroom window after climbing onto the built-in window seat during nap time in Washington in 2010. His injuries were life threatening and left him with a traumatic brain injury. He was in a coma for 7 days and spent two years re-learning to eat, walk and talk. We have always been very cautious parents and installed all the child safety products in our home. Dad is a Portland Firefighter, so we take safety measures very seriously.

I wrote [If Kids Could Float](#) a children's story book to help bring awareness and education to other family's so no one else has to go

Jennifer and Andrew Curry:

**Beckett** was 4 years old when she fell out of her bedroom window in Oregon in 2014. Our two-story apartment had no air conditioning, we had installed window stops. The day after our daughter turned four, during a heat wave, we opened the kids' bedroom windows all the way to help cool the room once we thought they were asleep.

We were alerted by the neighbors who saw her fall and brought her to our front door. It was the most terrifying night of our lives. The hours we spent waiting while she was under anesthesia were the most wrenching, frightening moments for us as parents. We were luckier than other families have been. Our daughter had a concussion, a chipped tooth and a fractured wrist because she fell onto grass.



Jamie and Shanda Geneser:



**Hannah** was 4 years old when she died after falling from a third story window while attending a birthday party when the screen gave way in Iowa in 2011. Since her death, Hannah has had a tremendous impact on families across the US. Here is a quick video that is dedicated to her life [https://youtu.be/z0E-JsZ\\_p68](https://youtu.be/z0E-JsZ_p68). On October 29th, 2018 The Hannah Geneser Learning Center and Safety Store will open inside Blank Children's Hospital... Cementing Hannah's legacy forever.

Many rental properties do not offer air conditioning putting families at risk of heat exhaustion if windows are not allowed to open fully. We urge you to vote in favor of requiring passive barriers that allow windows to be opened all the way, as intended and keep children safe. Since *all* children climb, removing the window sill height would keep our children and thousands of other children safe. Please consider all our children's safety and vote for these changes.

Sincerely,

Jason Cunningham Becca Cunningham Andrew Curry Ami T. English

Jennifer Curry

Ashely Reck