



April 13, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6050

*RE: Kevin & Avonte's Law of 2016 (S. 2614)*

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Schumer,

On behalf of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), I am writing to express our support for *Kevin & Avonte's Law of 2016* (S. 2614). This bill proposes a multi-front approach to address the problem of wandering (elopement) that is pervasive in the developmental disabilities community.

NDSS is the largest nonprofit representing and advocating for people with Down syndrome and their families, with over 375 NDSS affiliate groups spanning all 50 states and representing over 400,000 people with Down syndrome. Unfortunately, the problem of elopement (wandering) is very common in our community, and has resulted in many tragedies and near-tragedies. NDSS and our local Down syndrome affiliates have been working with law enforcement on an ad hoc basis to address this issue, but it has become clear that a nationwide initiative is needed. *Kevin & Avonte's Law* would provide much-needed support and resources to law enforcement agencies to develop programs and assist in locating missing children.

Thank you for your leadership on this bill, which NDSS strongly supports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Hart Weir".

Sara Hart Weir, MS  
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