

ELLY & CAMERON LAFKIN



ELLY AND CAMERON'S STORY

When Elly and her husband Cameron were referred to a family child care provider by two friends, they went out of their way to order an independent background check. The check did not flag any negative warnings, and they enrolled their infant daughter Camden. Four weeks later, they received a devastating phone call. Camden was found unresponsive while in child care and – despite more than an hour of CPR – she could not be revived. The Lafkins later learned that the provider had been caring for six additional children, drugs were found in the home, and she had used multiple aliases in the past.

After Camden's death, the Lafkins advocated for an omnibus child care safety bill that included requiring fingerprint background checks in Virginia known as Cami's Law, which passed in 2014. The Lafkins have championed other VA child care health and safety laws since then. Elly continues to contribute to workgroups and round table discussions about how to increase safety measures and parent education on both the state and federal level.

PARENT ADVOCATE

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CHILD CARE STATS IN VA

There are 396,873 children under the age of 6 in Virginia who could be in need of child care.

Married parents of 2 children living at the poverty line pay 92.0% of their household income for center-based child care.

Millennial parents in Virginia spend on average 48.8% of their income on center-based child care for one infant.

Congressional Requests: 2018

Provide a \$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) in FY 2019. These new funds will help hundreds of thousands of low-income children gain access to high-quality care and help states better meet the needs of families.

Co-sponsor the Child Care for Working Families Act. This legislation would more than double the number of children eligible for assistance under CCDBG, and support the child care workforce.