

July 21, 2023

Hello,

My name is Elisa Tambunga,

I come to you as young woman who no longer has a mother, a woman who no longer has a daughter. I come to you as a citizen that has been failed by this administration in the most horrific way. I come to you to present Emi-Coke Accountability.

On March 13, 2023, my mother Maria “Coke” Tambunga and my 7-year-old daughter Emilia Brooke Tambunga were coming home from a playdate with family when they were murdered. Maria my mom and Emilia my baby were two minutes away from home, when the Murderer, Coyote, Human Smuggler struck my mothers vehicle with a 7000lb weapon going over 105mph. On this night, around 8:30pm not only their lives were taken, but my life was too. Maria “Coke” Tambunga was a woman of strong faith, who was tender, attentive and above all loving. Emilia Brooke Tambunga was a child who was captivating in not only her beauty, but her mind and soul. My mother Maria was an active member of her community. No matter who someone was or where they came from, she always found a way to help them. Whether that be needing a shoulder to cry on or needing a hot meal that night, she was the woman that anyone could count on. She was warm and so giving. My mother made our house a home. Up until she was taken from my family and I, she continued to give and love. My daughter Emilia Brooke lit up the darkest of days and made them bright as could be. She was caring, sensitive, intelligent and determined. In her short seven years on this earth, she made an impact so gigantic that those who lived a full life could only dream of making. Emilia was in second grade, she participated in UIL, TaeKwon-Do, Softball, Basketball, 4-H, Cheer, CCE, Junior Guadalupanas, and more. With all those activities she still was an Honor Student. The truth is I could talk about my girls for the

entirety of my life and never get tired, but today I come to you to talk about the reason they are no longer with us.

Maria and Emilia's life were taken due to the lack of actions being taken in our nations administration. I am here to continue to hold those responsible accountable for their actions. The blood of my little girl Emilia and mother Maria are spread among multiple hands in this administration. As a citizen standing on the outside I have seen a lack of leadership and unwillingness to work as a unit, and this has put us, American citizens in danger. Our safety should not be a fight in your sandbox, shall I remind you, you work for me, you work for us the people, we who elect you to sit in these great offices. This is your privilege, not your right.

The murderer, who is not worthy of being named, had 11 illegal immigrants in his vehicle. Of those 11, two were also killed. The Border Crisis is a monster that is very much alive and thriving. This country's borders are NOT secured. Sending multiple resources such as Texas DPS to keep it contained is putting our people in grave danger. We continue to live in fear. I continue to live in fear that this is not a matter of IF, but WHEN will this happen to another family. This administration needs to grow a backbone and secure our borders and fulfill your duty to protect American Citizens above all else. Law enforcement agencies need adequate funding and training.

Earlier I mentioned I lost my life too. When I was 19 years old, I became pregnant with Emilia. I began to live for her, I began to exist for her. I do not know how to exist in a world that my daughter and mother no longer exist in. Every day of my life I struggle. I breathe, hurt, exist. I am alive yet I am dying. If I must exist without the centers of my world, then I will make every day count in honor of them. The Emi-Coke Accountability Act is the first step to honoring them and protecting our citizens. We must begin to start taking care of our own. Working alongside

Congressman Tony Gonzales and his staff, to encourage, enhance and integrate Emi-Coke Alert plans throughout the United States. On the night of my mother and daughters murder, no one in our town was aware of a high-speed chase. How do we keep our citizens safe if they do not know what is happening on their own turf? This is the answer to that question. By creating the Emi-Coke Alert we will be taking a major step towards spreading awareness throughout our towns, specifically along the border.

I Elisa Tambunga should have never had the responsibility of burying my 7-year-old little girl. I should never have seen my daughter and mothers bodies mutilated. My father, sister and brother-in-law should never have had to experience this tragedy. I should be buying my daughter school supplies and watching her grow and learn every day. I look at my future and all I feel is indescribable pain. My mother won't be here to see me graduate college or see me one day get married. My daughter won't be here to achieve her dreams of becoming an FBI agent or teacher (big aspirations for a little girl). But I am here. I am here to create change.

We are the faces of the Border Crisis. You cannot turn a blind eye. We are here and we demand to be heard, we demand action. I demand you all do better.