

Biography of Mia Alderman

My name is Mia Alderman, and I am the maternal grandmother of Mary Santina Collins, who was brutally murdered in Charlotte, North Carolina in March of 2020. I appear before this committee today not as a public official, but as a grieving grandmother and an advocate for justice—not only for Mary, but for all vulnerable victims whose voices are too often silenced.

I have worked for decades in my community, balancing family responsibilities with employment in both private sector roles and self employment. I am a mother, a grandmother, and a lifelong caregiver. Family has always been the center of my life, and I have remained deeply committed to supporting Mary throughout her childhood and into her young adulthood as she navigated life with a disability.

Since Mary's murder, I have dedicated myself to raising awareness about the failures in our justice system that prolong the suffering of families like mine. I have spoken publicly, written letters, and met with officials in an effort to shine a light on the systemic breakdowns in law enforcement, judicial processes, and pre-trial release policies. My experience has shown me how families are retraumatized when justice is delayed or denied.

I come before you today with the strength of my love for Mary and the weight of the years of waiting for accountability. My perspective is not one of legal expertise or government service, but of lived experience—as a grandmother who has sat in courtrooms, written pleas, and endured endless postponements while her granddaughter's killers remained on bond and her case has languished without trial for over half a decade.

It is my hope that by sharing my family's painful journey, I can help this committee understand the very real human toll of these systemic failures, and encourage reforms that ensure no other family must wait so long or suffer so deeply for justice.