



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On the Death of Braeden Bradforth

WASHINGTON, D.C.— *Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) issued the following statement after meeting with Joanne Atkins-Ingram, mother of Braeden Bradforth:*

“I will do everything I can to help uncover the truth about Braeden Bradforth’s case, which may include withholding of hydration during football practice; work to require that any future on-campus deaths be thoroughly and transparently investigated; and work to put an end to the preventable, needless, tragic deaths of young athletes from exertional heat stroke.

“Having met with Braeden Bradforth’s mother, Joanne Atkins-Ingram, one can’t help but feel her profound sense of loss. No parent should endure the pain of sending your son or daughter to college—with the joy of a sports scholarship and a hopeful, successful future—and then the very next day learning that your child died after football practice from what appears to have been a very preventable tragedy: heat stroke. It’s heartbreaking beyond words.

“Since August 1st, the day Braeden died, Ms. Atkins-Ingram has asked for answers. Like any mother, she wants to know what happened in the last moments of her child’s life. And unfortunately, she has been collaboratively stonewalled in her efforts to gain that information.

“In addition to learning the details of her son’s death on campus—which every parent should have the right to know, and every college should be obliged to provide—Ms. Atkins-Ingram’s fight now is to prevent other mothers from crying the tears she has cried, and to help ensure that other children are safe. We thank her for her selfless commitment in this time of loss and deep sorrow.”

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Cleared it by the Air Force. The Sec signed it on Aug 28th but they had to jump through various hoops (telling subcommittee chairs, telling committee staff, then telling congressional staff) which is why it took a month. We may want to word smith this so that it doesn’t look like we sat on this info.

Also, if we want the signed document for our press release I will be getting that in a few mins.

