

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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Clarke Renews Push For Violent Video Game Legislation Following ‘Mortal Kombat’ Killings

Seven year-old’s Recent Death in Colorado Underscores Need to Protect Michigan Families

LANSING -In the wake of a recent Mortal Kombat-style killing of a 7 year-old in Colorado, State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) commented today on the need to re-introduce his legislation that would restrict the sales of violent video games to minors. According to police reports, Zoe Garcia was beaten to death with imitations of moves from the video game Mortal Kombat on December 6 by her half-sister Heather Trujillo, 16, and Lamar Roberts, 17.

“This senseless tragedy is another painful reminder that these violent video games have negatively impacted our values as a society, and are too easy for minors to purchase without parental consent,” said Clarke. “We simply cannot continue to ignore the correlation between the violence promoted in the media and tragic acts like the ones that led to Zoe Garcia’s death.”

Senator Clarke has been concerned with the media’s affect on our children in promoting inappropriate language and behavior for several years. In 2005, Senator Clarke introduced the original legislation that would criminalize the sale or rental of certain violent, sexually or verbally explicit video games to individuals under 18 years of age. Though the 2005 law was challenged in court on first amendment grounds, Sen. Clarke believes legislative efforts that will withstand constitutional scrutiny should continue moving forward.

“It’s time for the Legislature to take another look at my bills that would help give parents the knowledge to make informed decisions about what is suitable for their children,” said Clarke. “Ultimately parents are the ones who should have the right to determine if their child is mature enough to handle adult-themed material. The current system is clearly broken, and we must take action to protect Michigan’s children from sharing a similar fate with Zoe Garcia.”

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