

Dear

I am writing today to request that you take immediate action to ensure that there is safe fencing in our community. Both spiked-top fencing and exposed-picket fencing are hidden dangers in our community. These fences are everywhere – our yards, playgrounds, childcare facilities, parks, and businesses. The dangers of these fences, and the subsequent liability posed by them, are very real for children, adults, pets, and wildlife. People and animals can become trapped between, or impaled on, the bars, resulting in serious injury, or even death. All fencing should be continuously flat-topped for public safety. To ensure the safety of everyone in our community, existing fencing should be modified, and no new spiked-top, or exposed-picket fencing should be allowed in our community.

Why do I feel so strongly about this issue and why should you be concerned?

On March 22, 2018, Kade Damian, a spunky, inquisitive child one month shy of his 3rd birthday died on an exposed picket fence as he tried to climb it to visit a friend. His parents were both outside with him when the accident occurred. The low exposed picket fence had lower and upper horizontal bars with vertical bars protruding above the top most horizontal bar. Kade was able to climb the fence using the lower bar as a “boost.” Once he reached the upper exposed bars, his neck and head became trapped between the exposed pickets and when he pulled back to free himself, his legs slipped off the lower bar. His neck slid onto the top most horizontal bar, putting pressure on his carotid artery, cutting off the flow of blood to his brain, and killing Kade within seconds. Kade was found within moments of when he slipped, but he could not be revived by the efforts of trained first responders.

If you look online, you will find a video of an Oregon State Trooper rescuing a fawn similarly trapped in a wooden picket fence. The fawn escaped with only minor injuries. Kade was not so lucky. In 2018, a man inspecting a roof in San Antonio, TX fell and was impaled on an exposed picket fence. While he survived the fall, his life will never be the same.

Every year, numerous calls are made to Game Wardens and Animal Control officers reporting animals trapped or impaled on exposed picket and spike topped fencing. These calls are often grotesque, hard on first responders and those who witness them, and costly to tax payers who must pay for the rescue and clean-up efforts.

The fencing industry is aware that exposed picket and spike topped fencing are dangerous, and pose a liability to home and business owners. It is only a matter of time before another child or adult is injured, or killed on these inherently unsafe fences. It is time to require safe flat-topped fencing in our community!

Recently, the City of Lakeway, TX recognized the inherent dangers of exposed picket and spiked topped fencing, passing an ordinance reading, “All fences including wood,

wrought iron and ornamental fencing shall be continuously flat-topped without spikes or sharp points.” It’s that simple.

Visit www.kadeskrusaders.org to see pictures of Kade and to learn more about the importance of flat-topped fencing. Eliminating the hidden dangers of exposed picket and spiked topped fencing makes the public safer and protects the most vulnerable among us. Continuously flat-topped fencing is what our community needs. This simple change will reduce liability, but more importantly, it will save lives.

Thank you for your time and support of this important lifesaving matter.

Sincerely,



**Kade Damian
4/21/15 to 3/22/18**

**Flat-topped fencing
would have saved my
life!**



Not Safe



**Safe Continuously Flat-Topped
Fencing**