

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CASANDRA PHILLIPS,
SISTER OF BRANDON PHILLIPS,
TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
October 3, 2007**

I want to thank Chairman Miller for the opportunity to submit this statement, and the United Mine Workers Association for all their help in this difficult time.

Brandon Phillips was my brother. We did a lot together. He has a son, my nephew Gage Phillips. He is now five and is without his father. I do not want this to happen to anyone else's kids.

In the meetings with MSHA and Mr. Murray after the collapse, I got a feeling they were not telling us the truth. I wondered if they were really drilling all those holes. Without any family representative or United Mine Workers Association representative verifying it, how could we know whether they were really drilling those holes? In every meeting they would tell us the same thing. The story never changed.

I would like mine owners, operators and MSHA to do a better job of checking the mines to make sure they are really safe.

I would like to thank all the miners and the rescue teams for all their help.