



Statement | Homeland Security and Immigration

Senseless Murder of Virginia Mother by Illegal Alien Exposes Immigration Failures

Ashley Hayek - March 24, 2026

Richmond, VA—On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, **Ashley Hayek, Executive Vice President** at the **America First Policy Institute (AFPI)**, along with other leaders and members of the community, attended a press conference in front of the Virginia Governor's office regarding the brutal murder of Stephanie Nicole Minter, a beloved mother, daughter, and sister. She was murdered by an illegal alien.

Hayek offers the following statement:

“Stephanie’s murder is not just a personal tragedy for her family. It is a stark reminder of the radical immigration failures in our country that have put innocent Americans at risk. Her killer was here illegally and had over 30 prior charges—including violent felonies—and was allowed back on the streets. Federal immigration authorities issued a detainer, yet Virginia officials have still not committed to honoring it. This is completely unacceptable.

The government’s first responsibility is public safety. When officials refuse to cooperate with federal law enforcement or decline to uphold immigration laws, they are making a choice that can carry devastating consequences for Americans—and their families and friends bear the burden.

We stand with Stephanie’s family in their grief and in their pursuit of justice and a system that prioritizes the safety of innocent lives over the protection of repeat offenders and illegal immigrants.”

Hayek was asked to lead the group gathered in prayer. This is a portion of her prayer:

“Lord Jesus, You who wept with the grieving and defended the vulnerable, comfort Cheryl Minter in her sorrow. Heal the wound no mother should bear, and let her know she is not alone.”

“Holy Spirit, give us courage to demand both the sacred dignity of every human life and the fairness that truly protects it.”