

2/13/25

From: Michele Kreider, [REDACTED]@verizon.net

To: Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin

Subject: the Halt Fentanyl Act

This is regarding the HALT Fentanyl Act that was heard on January 30, the 119th Congress. Time is of the essence. I am hoping this bill can move forward as is without wasting more time on useless amendments. By the time the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General prove or disprove and/or certify that this bill will lead to a reduction in overdose deaths, another few hundred, maybe a thousand victims will be dead. The country is already in a crisis we've never experienced before. What more can be uncovered with amendments? Once a victim is dead, rehabilitation is not possible. The dead do not speak. Fentanyl analogs, precursors and other opioids have a proven record to immediately cause addiction and once the addiction starts, recovery is a struggle like no other. How many people recover compared to how many are already dead?

I am one of thousands of mothers who lost a son to this drug. Blair Ross Kreider died on 11/1/8/2020, all alone, in the midst of the COVID pandemic. He had been on a methadone program and was doing well for over two years, until he relapse. Fentanyl was laced into his drug and sealed his fate. A second chance to recover is not possible—no amendments are going to help him. Prior to his death, we talked about other methods of treatment until he was ready to take the full plunge into whatever withdrawal he had to face to reach total sobriety. My son made a choice and is being held accountable with his life. My life has forever changed. My new identity is a grieving mother.

The police report, stated “overdose” and his death certificate stated, “deceased took drugs.” Doesn't sound very important. They confiscated his three phones; only one was actively in service. I thought they took them to investigate. I was hoping they might find my son important enough to try and find the person who supplied a vulnerable, recovering addict with illicit drugs that killed him. Never heard a peep, despite my follow up inquiry. They didn't return the phones either. The person who provided Blair with the deadly drug is still out there poisoning others—uncontrolled by a legal system who spends a lot of time deciding whether or not this person should be incarcerated and if the drug warrants Scheduling as 1. What is left to prove? Selling or even giving away addictive narcotics, like Fentanyl and its precursors, are happening because our system allows it to happen. Schedule 1 for fentanyl and precursors and the like, makes sense. Please move this forward, nice and clean.

I appreciate your attention and hope you take my thoughts into consideration.