

February 17, 2025

TO: Chairman Grassley & Ranking Member Durbin

FROM: Rachel D. Page, Mother of Brian L. Page Forever34

RE: The HALT Fentanyl Act Bill – NO AMMENDMENTS!!!

Dear Chairman Grassley & Ranking Member Durbin:

My son is dead!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I'm never going to be able to hug him again or tell him happy birthday!! On Friday, September 22, I took my mother to a Dr. appt. They called her back, and I normally would go with her, but for whatever reason I chose to wait in the lobby. Shortly after that, I received a call at approx. 3 p.m. that day from an unknown number via Facebook messenger. I declined the call. Then I received a message from that same number with a message in Spanish. I am Hispanic, but I do not speak Spanish fluently. The message said, "Llameme es bien urgente por favor, se trata de Brian." I understood it said to please call it was urgent regarding Brian. I replied and said I was at my mother's appt and couldn't answer at the moment. I honestly thought it was a scam. I got up and went outside to message her back to find out what was going on. She then replied in English, "something very bad happened to Brian. I replied and said, "What do you mean??? Who are you???" The next message will haunt me forever, as it stated, "I work with Brian at the Super 8 hotel and they just told me that they found him dead in his room, please contact the hotel urgently, I am out of town but looking for a flight back to Colorado." I asked her for the number to the hotel. I called immediately and spoke with a young lady who stated it was true, and the police were there investigating and that her brother found my son. I obviously became hysterical and began begging to let me speak with a detective or office. They didn't get anyone to speak with me and said the detective would contact me. As a mother, hearing your son is dead, from a stranger at the time, and not having a government official to speak with me caused massive distress. I was inconsolable and have not been the same person since.

Because I live in New Mexico and my son was in Fountain, Colorado, I called my sister who lives in Colorado Springs as soon as I gained my composure and begged her to get to Fountain to see if she could find out what happened to my son. She got there but they wouldn't allow her to see my son. The police were still in his room, but she was able to see him when the coroner took him out, so that was the first real confirmation I had that my son in fact was deceased.

When I was able to finally speak with authorities, I was told my son most likely died from drug use. I didn't understand. I knew he used cocaine and smoked marijuana and although I'm not naïve to the fact people die from cocaine or other narcotics, it still didn't make sense to me. I was told by the detective they found pills and a bag with a white substance in a drawer. Under him was a pipe and his cell phone. She indicated a field test on the substance, and it was meth. She also stated the pills appeared to be what was called illicit fentanyl. I was even more confused, because to my knowledge my son NEVER even tried meth or fentanyl and would verbally scold people, he knew who knowingly used either. And his best friend had just died 3 months prior from an overdose. His

entire reason from moving from our hometown of Clovis, NM was because he had saved his best friend's life by rushing him to the hospital a few months before he died because he found him unresponsive. His friend was mad that he took him to the hospital, and it caused a rift in their friendship. It hurt my son that his best friend was mad at him for essentially saving his life that day. Although an autopsy wasn't done on his friend, we knew it was a result of his use heroin and fentanyl.

Once the toxicology report for my son was completed, it listed the following as cause of death:

1. Fentanyl Intoxication
2. Methamphetamine Intoxication
3. Cardiomegaly, 540 g

It also listed the death as accidental. How can consuming something bad for that was laced with fentanyl be considered accidental??? My son was murdered, and it feels like no one cares!!!

I could go on and on with more details, but I found it very difficult to even start this letter, and am literally completing it with minutes to spare for the deadline. So, I beg you, we need this bill to pass WITHOUT ANY AMENDMENTS for the sake of our children's lives who were taken unfairly!!!!

Respectfully,

Rachel D. Page

Brian L. Page Forever 34

2/27/89-9/22/23