Chairman Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member Dick Durbin
United States Senate

Subject: No Amendments to the Halt Fentanyl Act

Dear Honorable Chairman Grassley and Honorable Ranking Member Durbin,

It saddens me that I even must write this letter to you and your esteemed Committee. Never in my life did I think that I would lose a family member to fentanyl, let alone my 15-month-old granddaughter, Charlotte, but this is exactly what happened on 05/09/22. My youngest son, Evan, called me that morning at 11:16, I excitedly answered my phone and wished him Happy 26th Birthday. He immediately interrupted me and said asked if I was sitting down because he had some upsetting news. My heart lurched in my chest, and he went on to say he and Madison (Charlotte's mom) had relapsed and Madison had just called him saying the baby was unresponsive and on the way to Memorial Hospital. He was at work in Fremont (2 hours from our hometown of Santa Rosa, CA) and catching a Lyft. He needed me to get to the hospital ASAP. Charlotte was already dead when I arrived. You cannot imagine the trauma and heartbreak of seeing your sweet perfect granddaughter lifeless on a table with an intubation tube in her mouth and her blood all around the tube and her mouth. It is a scene seared into my memory forever! This was the end of my beloved Charlotte's story but just the beginning of the nightmare that our family will live with for the rest of our lives.

Evan is the youngest of my three children and was and is always sweet and thoughtful. Growing up he was a favorite of the seniors in our neighborhood because he always visited them, talking about his adventures and news of his latest football games. His senior high school year was his football coach's retirement season (this coach had been my husband's junior varsity coach 37 years prior) and he described Evan as the kid with the most heart of any player he had coached over the decades. That was Evan, empathetic, always willing to help others and extremely charismatic. Unfortunately, around the age of 20, he started drinking and at 22 he told us that he was addicted to heroin (smoking) and needed help. He completed 60 days in rehab but relapsed a few months later. Once again, he immediately went back to rehab and completed another 60 days. It seemed as if it stuck this time, and he went back to his Union glazier job and was doing well. Our family had concerns as he was still with the same girlfriend who briefly went to recovery, but they had their own apartment, and all seemed well.

Evan was thrilled when he told me they were expecting. Naturally, I was concerned as they were only a year into recovery but told him this baby would be a blessing to our family. He

said that he just wanted her to have the childhood like he had, filled with activities, sports and plenty of love. When Charlotte arrived, you could see the love emanating from him. I have never seen him happier than the day he brought Charlotte over to meet my husband and me! It came as a total shock when Evan called the morning of his birthday to say he had relapsed and to get to the hospital for Charlotte. Two days prior to this call, George and I had spent the day with Evan and Charlotte, and he appeared to be a loving dad with lots of patience as Charlotte was cranky from getting her 15mo immunizations.

I am a grieving grandmother and mother. Daily I mourn the loss of Charlotte, but I also mourn the loss of my son. He was charged with Murder 2 and after being held without bail, despite showing up for all previous court dates held without bail once he was finally charged. It took two long years before there was finally a plea bargain offered. During this time, it was front page news of our local paper most court appearances often accompanied by pictures and reporting that was not fact checked but geared to sensationalize. Both parents are serving an 11- year sentence for Voluntary Manslaughter in separate California State Penitentiaries. My son is guilty of having a horrific disease but not of murdering his daughter. He refused to give the name of the person(s) who sold him fentanyl because he/they were cartel connected. Evan said that he could not put his parents in jeopardy over his bad decisions and feared that the cartel would retaliate against us if he snitched.

My words do not adequately express the pain and devastation and the depth of my broken heart for not only my granddaughter and son. There is a hole in my heart each day but especially at every family gathering that can never be filled.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please stop the fentanyl and prosecute the cartels and dealers. It is my hope and prayer that perhaps with your oversight, another family will be spared from feeling this unbearable pain, loss and suffering.

Sincerely,

Corinne Frostick
Charlotte's grandmother





