

February 17, 2025

Re: Please pass the HALT Fentanyl Act!

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

My family has been deeply affected by illicit fentanyl. Our son, Courage Adibo Minten was born in Ghana, West Africa in 1999. My husband and I adopted Courage after a lengthy two-year adoption process and he came to live in the United States of America in 2014. He was the youngest with two older sisters and adjusted to school and our family very well. Courage was a 2020 graduate from a private Catholic high school in Oregon. His lifelong dream was to become a commercial airline pilot. He was accepted into the American Airlines flight academy which he began a few months after high school graduation. He went to flight schools in San Diego, CA and Pompano Beach, FL, and had just moved home after finishing flight school in Florida. He was looking for flight jobs to gain flying hours to become a commercial airline pilot. His life and dream was cut short when he was poisoned by one fake illicit fentanyl pill in July 2022 at the age of 23. He had interviewed for a flight job in Texas just days before he passed away.

On Friday, July 1, 2022, Courage went out with friends in Salem, Oregon, and had come home late and was sleeping on the couch. My husband and I walked by him all morning noticing that he was snoring and commenting that we didn't realize that he snored. We did not realize that anything was seriously wrong, until he let out a loud moan and stopped breathing. We called the paramedics and my husband started CPR until they arrived. He spent 4 days in cardiac ICU until the doctors declared him brain dead and we knew we had lost him. Our world was shattered. Our son, who had such a promising future, was gone. Our laid-back, always-smiling, happy, friendly, and smart son was gone. We were and still are, heartbroken.

We found search history on his laptop that was next to him on the couch for "what are the side effects of oxycodone". He was checking the drug, Oxy, because of drug testing for a new flight job. He was deceived and poisoned to death by someone who had given him a counterfeit oxy M30 pill. The pill had two times the lethal dose of fentanyl and no oxycodone. We don't know why he took the "oxy" pill, but we do know he was poisoned. He made one mistake taking that pill and that mistake cost him his life. One pill, one time.

Courage was a son, uncle, Godfather, brother, grandson, and friend. He lit up a room with his smile and made everyone feel special. He met friends easily and from all over the world. We received condolences after his passing from people in 5 continents, 16 countries and 17 U.S. states. The messages were from people whose lives were touched by Courage throughout his short life. Ironically, he survived poverty, malnourishment, and hard times being born in the third world country of Ghana but his life was cut short here in the U.S. by this deadly drug, illicit fentanyl, that is causing mass destruction to all walks of life in the United States.

We can do better as a country. We can stop the flow of fentanyl into our country, we can educate on the signs of opioid poisoning, and we can encourage everyone to carry naloxone. We can do better for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Kim Minten

██████████@wvi.com

Instagram: courage_forever23

██████████, Oregon