

September 2023

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you in hopes of convincing you to act on the legislation that passed the House of Representatives and is now before you for consideration. Please act to make permanent the temporary scheduling of Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) INTO Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

I am yet another grieving parent who lost an adult child to drug addiction, specifically opioids. Our beautiful 25-year-old son Danny was a talented artist, a funny and sensitive friend, a brother to his two siblings and a source of joy for his dad and me. What he will never be is a father, an uncle, a husband... the list goes on. When you lose a child, you not only lose what they were to you, but you also lose what they would have become. Danny died in 2012 and not a day goes by without the constant coping with that loss. It's a physical pain that I would not wish on my worst enemy.

The opioid crisis has hit so many families. Sadly, there are not a lot of success stories as so many of them end in death. There is a wave of destruction that affects the entire family. Everyone whose lives Danny touched will forever be affected by his death.

In addition to our personal tragedy, we have attended at least 3 funerals of young people who spoke at our son's funeral. They all thought they had managed their addictions, but eventually it pulled them back in. One died 8 years after Danny, and one died just last summer. The ripple effect on families and friends is horrifying.

PLEASE move this forward. It is time to change the direction of this wave.

Sincerely, Karen Jones

