

Chairman Grassley and ranking member Durbin,

My name is Julie Martin and I am the mother of Emillie Stapleton. On January 28th 2017, I received the call from the Union Ohio police that my beautiful daughter was dead. She was only 26 years old. I went to the scene and saw my baby lying dead on a cold basement floor. Can you even imagine? Probably not. I am a retired RN and at the time of her death totally ignorant about illicit Fentanyl. I was very familiar with pharmaceutical Fentanyl but not the poison illicit Fentanyl. Her death was never investigated and no justice ever obtained. Someone poisoned her and never paid the price. This is the case with most of us parents. My daughter suffered with Substance Use Disorder and to the courts and law enforcement, she was just another dead drug addict. Like many angel parents, I am broken in ways that can never be fixed but at the same time other broken angel parents are some of the strongest people I have ever met. In the past 8 years I have only seen this problem get worse and ignored by those with the power to help. Everyone of these tragic deaths represent so many devastated loved ones left behind. Emillie left 2 babies!

I feel optimistic for the first time in a long time with the new administration that finally someone cares and maybe we will get some help!

It is imperative that this bill pass clean without amendments so that there are no delays.

Illicit fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction and must be recognized and treated as such!

God bless you both and please help us now!

