

To Chairman Grassley and Senator Dubin:

I am writing to you today as a grieving mother and an advocate for the urgent and permanent scheduling of fentanyl and its related substances as Schedule I drugs under the Controlled Substances Act. The HALT Fentanyl Act, recently heard on January 30, 2025 in the 119th Congress, must be passed with permanent scheduling to prevent further tragedies like the one that took my daughter's life.

My daughter, Gabriela Lynn Bronk, affectionately known as Gaby, was only 14 years old when she was poisoned by illicit fentanyl. During this time we lived in Texas. Gaby had purchased what she believed to be Xanax on the dark web, but instead, the pill she took was laced with fentanyl. On August 10, 2021, I lost my brilliant, kind, and ambitious daughter to this deadly synthetic opioid.

Gaby was an extraordinary young woman who excelled in everything she pursued. She was passionate about music, trading stocks, video games, and baseball. She was the first female player on the Pershing Middle School baseball team and a dedicated member of the Bellaire Little League. A self-taught musician, a fierce friend, and a lover of justice, she embraced life with unwavering enthusiasm and an open heart. Gaby was set to start her journey at Bellaire High School, but her bright future was stolen from her in an instant by an illicit and unregulated substance that is devastating families across this country.

The proliferation of illicit fentanyl has reached a crisis level. Temporary measures are not enough. We need permanent action to combat this epidemic. By passing the HALT Fentanyl Act, Congress can ensure that fentanyl-related substances remain in Schedule I, giving law enforcement the necessary tools to crack down on those who manufacture and distribute these lethal drugs.

This is not a partisan issue—it is a matter of public safety and the protection of our children. Fentanyl has infiltrated communities across the nation, affecting countless families, and we must act decisively to prevent further loss of life.

I urge you to support and advocate for the HALT Fentanyl Act to be passed without delay and with permanent scheduling of all fentanyl analogues. My daughter Gaby's story is just one of thousands, and I hope her memory can serve as a catalyst for meaningful change. No parent should have to endure the pain of losing a child to a preventable crisis.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing this urgent issue. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share more about how fentanyl has impacted my family and so many others.

Sincerely,
Jennifer-Joy Sutton



