

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

I am writing to you not just as a concerned citizen, but as a grieving parent. I lost my beloved son, Hagen, in 2019 at just 22 years old. Hagen struggled with substance use disorder, but what took his life was something he never even knew he was taking—fentanyl.

Hagen did not seek out fentanyl. He had no idea that what he was using contained this poison, let alone five times the lethal dose. That single moment cost him his life, and it has left an unimaginable void in mine. He was more than his struggles—he was a son, a friend, and a person who deserved a chance to recover. Instead, fentanyl took that chance away in an instant.

Fentanyl-related substances are killing thousands of Americans every year, cutting lives short before they ever have the opportunity to heal. This epidemic does not discriminate—it affects families in every state, every district, and every community. The HALT Fentanyl Act is a critical step in closing the loopholes that allow traffickers to tweak chemical formulas and push these lethal substances into our communities without consequence.

I urge you to pass this bill clean, without amendments or delays. Families like mine have already lost too much. The time for half-measures is over. We need decisive action to stop the flow of fentanyl analogs and save lives.

Please, honor Hagen's memory and the memory of countless others who have fallen victim to this crisis. Pass the HALT Fentanyl Act now.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing the fentanyl epidemic. If you would like to hear more about Hagen's story, I would be honored to share it.

Sincerely,
Staci James

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