

Dear, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin

I am emailing you because I lost my 24 year old daughter and only child in 2019 to fentanyl poisoning. My daughters name was Heaven Leigh Nelson. I named her Heaven because that is exactly what she was to me. She was my world.

Growing up she was a social butterfly. She was always surrounded by friends. My child has been gone for 6 years now and I still have them to reach out to me to tell me how she touched their lives. Heaven used to always say to me that there was no such thing as strangers. They were merely friends we had not yet met. This is how she lived her life.

I am a dual citizen of Canada. My father was American and my mother a Canadian citizen. I was born in the United States. I raised my daughter in Alberta, Canada after moving there when she was 9 years old. She attended Victoria School of the Arts in Edmonton, Alberta. She loved acting, music, and poetry. My child had dreams and I had dreams for her. But sadly all our dreams came crashing down on January 28th, 2019 when I got the dreaded phone call my only child was dead.

We moved back to North Carolina to my home town when Heaven was 18. And in a few short years my only child left Vance County in a body bag. My beautiful, sweet, smart girl was gone because of a poison that should not be in this country in the first place.

Her death has destroyed our family. My child was supposed to live a full and happy life. My child was supposed to bury me. No parent should ever have to go through this. We have a country full of brokenhearted, devastated families just like mine.

I beg of you to pass the Halt Fentanyl Bill with no amendments. Enough is enough. We can't keep burying our children.

Heaven Leigh left behind her son who is now 8 years old. I have full custody and am raising him. He is so smart just like his mother. We have to do all humanly possible to save lives. I can not bury another child.

Thank you,  
Patricia Drewes  
Vice President of Lost Voices of Fentanyl  
Founder of Forgotten Victims of North Carolina  
State Representative for the N.C. Chapter of Drug Induced Homicide  
Author of Death of Americas Future-China's Fentanyl