

Dear Mr. Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

My name is Rhonda Maher, and I am writing to you with a heavy heart to share the tragic loss of my first-born son, Jerad, on March 27, 2020. Jerad, like so many others, struggled with substance use disorder and anxiety. He had worked hard to turn his life around and was looking forward to starting a new job in two weeks. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, his training was postponed, and the mounting stress of the situation—coupled with financial pressures—caused his anxiety to spiral. In his vulnerable state, Jerad reached out to an acquaintance to buy a single Xanax, unaware that it was counterfeit and laced with fentanyl. Tragically, that decision cost him his life.

I implore you to pass the Halt Fentanyl Act without delay. We cannot afford to wait for further amendments that will slow the process. This legislation is crucial in saving lives and preventing other families from experiencing the unimaginable pain I am living with every day.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will act swiftly in supporting this critical legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Rhonda Maher