

**Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,**

**My name is Debbie Santini and my youngest son Jesse Byrd died of Fentanyl poisoning on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 - 3 years and 1 day ago today. In 2011 Jesse was in a very serious car accident and was taken to shock trauma for emergency surgery. After surgery the doctors prescribed opioids for the pain. He was 16 at the time. NO doctor or nurse ever came to me and said - Hey mom this is what we are giving your son for pain - it's an opioid and it's HIGHLY ADDICTIVE. Fentanyl wasn't even in my vocabulary in 2011. With no prior substance use, Jesse became addicted to opioids.**

**On January 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 which was his brother's birthday, Jesse made up his mind to get his life back . He went to treatment and successfully completed that program. While in treatment Jesse was recruited to a very bad 'recovery' house. Jesse died 5 days later. He was found dead on the top bunk of a bed with 10 other people in that house. The alarm on his phone went off at 4:30am for him to go to work. The call to 911 did not come in until 7:01 am. TWO HOURS AND THIRTY-ONE MINUTES MY CHILD SAT DEAD WITH 10 PEOPLE IN A HOUSE AND HIS ALARM GOING OFF CONSTANTLY. NO ONE DID ANYTHING TO SAVE MY CHILD'S LIFE! The Annapolis City Police Department did not even investigate my son's death. They spoke to 4 people. I have been fighting for a thorough investigation into my son's death since the day he died with no support whatsoever from the ACPD. I spoke with our medical examiner here in Maryland on multiple occasions regarding the wrong statements on my son's death certificate to get the proper**

**wording - FENTANYL POISONING AND UNDETERMINED. No drugs were found near or on my child. I have no idea how Jesse ingested the fentanyl that stole his life.**

**THESE ARE NOT OVERDOSES - THESE ARE POISONINGS! Fentanyl IS a weapon of mass destruction and it has completely devastated my family and that of countless other Americans who have had to continue to fight through their grief and loss to get laws changed and bills passed to help protect innocent lives.**

**Every day that drags on because of red tape bureaucracy another mother will receive a call or knock on her door with the words - "I'M SORRY TO INFORM YOU - YOUR CHILD IS DEAD." NO mother should ever have to hear those words!**

**Jesse was a beautiful child with a smile that would light up any room. He was the light of our family and the absolute joy of my life! Jesse saved the lives of 4 people by the use of Narcan, including his brother, but no one saved my child. My life and that of my oldest sons and his dad has been changed forever and I will never be the same without my precious child.**

**Please see that this HALT Fentanyl Act is passed without amendments to reach President Trumps desk to be signed and to help ensure the safety of all American lives.**

**Fentanyl does not discriminate. Fentanyl does not care if you are white or black, rich or poor, old or young, Republican or Democrat. Fentanyl traffickers seek to kill us all and no one is immune to this deadly illicit drug.**

**This won't bring my child back but it may just save someone you love.**

**Respectfully,**

**Debra Santini  
Grieving Mom  
Lost Voices of Fentanyl**

**[REDACTED], MD**  
**[REDACTED]**