

Diane Sabat

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Dear:

Honorable Chairman Chuck Grassley, United States Senator

Honorable Ranking Member Dick Durbin United States Senator

Re: The Halt Fentanyl Act

Hello. I am a grieving mother who lost a child to illicit fentanyl poisoning. My son, John Sabat at the age of 22, 14 days away from his 23rd birthday. He had just graduated from BCIT Adult Education for HVAC and was going to start looking for a job. While he attended school he worked in landscaping, he was very experienced in grass cutting.

He played many years of tackle football, from 8 years old all the way through high school, and received 2 awards: Iron Hound 2012, Unsung Hero 2014. I attended all the games and helped at the concession stand. I was so proud of him as a dedicated teammate and efforts to do his best in the game. He had 2 offers to play football at 2 lower-level colleges but never pursued the offers.

It seemed that after graduating high school and losing his grandfather his life changed. He started to smoke weed, stay out late, come home, pass out on the couch. He was found unconscious in his car and was given Narcan, because he took a fake pill. We begged him to get some help, but he refused. After that he crashed his car into a tree and survived. I tried to get him to go get treatment, but he said he would do it on his own. At this time, I was already helping my daughter out with treatment from heroin addiction and was somewhat overwhelmed and thought that her case was more serious than my sons.

On that fateful night, John came home visibly distressed, swaying and yelling. My husband and I, filled with concern, told him how much we loved him and urged him to stay home so we could seek help together in the morning. Despite losing his keys, he managed to find them and drove away without us noticing. My heart sank when I received a text from him saying he would be home later, but he never returned. The next morning, the doorbell rang, and a police officer informed us that John was at the local hospital. By the time we arrived, it was too late. Our beloved son was gone, a victim of fentanyl poisoning.

Next day I searched his room and found pills that he and his friends had purchased online. Without my knowledge they took them before I could throw them away. We think that they must have had some fentanyl in them, and it started him to want more. That night he told his

friends that he was going to get something stronger, like heroin and they argued with him and tried to stop him, but they were not successful.

His past teammates, former coaches, friends and family attended his funeral. One of his friends went into rehab, 2 different times since his death. Another person that he had hung out with was found dead 6 months after him, overdosed. There were more overdose deaths my friend's niece, I believe took a fake pill from the street and my daughters past school time friend relapsed and took heroin that was laced with fentanyl.

I feel that my son was poisoned, he thought he was trying heroin for the first time but ended up being poisoned by the fentanyl in it.

So, I have joined The Lost Voices of Fentanyl, Inc a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with 35,500 members, attending the rally's, sharing my pain and offering some support to the members on Facebook. Along with other groups: Apald, Kings Crusade, Grief Group and Advocates for our Angels. I attend Overdose awareness events and put up my pictures and posters on my front lawn every August, to show the neighbors that our community is not exempt from this poison.

Please pass the Halt Fentanyl Act as it is currently written, without amendments to help save future generations from this poison.

Appreciate your efforts on getting this act passed to help save our future generations from this poison.

Sincerely,

Diane Sabat