

The Honorable Chairman Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Ranking Member Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Strong Support for the HALT Fentanyl Act

Dear Senators Grassley and Durbin,

I am writing to express my strong support for the HALT Fentanyl Act as written and unamended. The fentanyl crisis has devastated families and communities across the nation, claiming thousands of lives each year. Addressing this epidemic requires a firm and comprehensive response, and the HALT Fentanyl Act is a crucial step in that direction.

My son Kevin, died from illicit fentanyl poisoning on July 27 2021 at the young age of 27. Kevin was a kind, bright, handsome, and hard-working young man whose life was cut short because a drug dealer sold him something other than what he intended to take. This is the very definition of poisoning.

My son is gone, but the dealer is likely still peddling their poison and actively murdering people with it. The dealers continue to murder with impunity because there is no deterrent to their actions. They are quite literally getting away with murder. All drug related deaths SHOULD be investigated and there must be strong laws put in place to prosecute dealers that sell this poison. I often wonder how many unknowing victims have been poisoned by this same drug dealer since they killed my son.

As you know, fentanyl and its analogues are among the deadliest drugs contributing to the overdose crisis. By ensuring that all fentanyl-related substances are permanently classified as Schedule I drugs, this bill will provide law enforcement with the necessary tools to combat illicit trafficking while maintaining appropriate avenues for legitimate scientific research. Furthermore, it will help close legal loopholes that allow traffickers to modify fentanyl's chemical structure to evade regulation.

I appreciate your leadership on this issue. Too many lives have been lost, and we cannot afford inaction. Thank you for your time, your commitment to addressing this crisis, and your dedication to protecting American communities.

Sincerely,

Anita Puckett

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