

Dear, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin

On January 9, 2023 our lives were changed forever.

We need this bill that would permanently place Fentanyl and related substances into a Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substance Act.

We need this bill to pass with absolutely no amendments.

No parent should have to bury their child. The pain is unimaginable and indescribable.

Sincerely,

Renee Morris

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], MD [REDACTED]

Mitchell Jacob Martin Morris Forever 28

Can you Just Imagine

As I stand here today and give this statement, I ask you to just imagine.

I am a mother. I am a bereaved mother. My child died, and this is my path. It is not a path of my choice, but it is a path I must walk mindfully and with intention. It is a journey through the darkest night of my soul. Every cell in my body aches and longs to be with my beloved child. I may be impatient, distracted, frustrated, and unfocused. I may get angry more easily, or I may seem hopeless. I will shed many, many, many tears. I won't smile as often as my old self. Smiling now hurts. Most everything hurts some days even breathing.

On January 8, 2023, Mitchell came home from work like any other day.

At that time, my oldest son was leaving with his son Maverick. Mitchell gave Maverick a hug and kiss and told him he loved him. He told Matt he would see him tomorrow. Mitchell and I began talking about some things, he told me he liked working at Webstraunt

and he was picker of the week. I told him good job and I was so proud of him. He said "We'll I'm going to go upstairs and play the game and drink a few beers. We hugged and I kissed him and told him I loved him and he told me he loved me too. He turned around and went upstairs with his beer. The next morning my husband left for work and a few hours later I left.

That day at work was just like any typical Monday at the Town of Westernport. Later in the day Matt called me and said he was going to go get Maverick. He asked me if I had heard from Mitchell and I told him no. I said he was probably still sleeping. About 4:00, I was working and the fire siren starting blowing. I turned my scanner on and the call was for [REDACTED] Street for an unconscious unresponsive patient. I hit the floor and told my co-worker that's my house. Just a minute later Matt called me and said "Mom you need to come home, we think Mitchell is dead. I screamed and screamed no! When I arrived the emergency vehicles were in front of the house. I ran in the house and Carrie Williams told us, he's gone. Can You Just Imagine.

In the meantime, this is what happened. Maverick loved to wake his uncle Mitchell up so Matt told Maverick to go upstairs and wake up uncle Mitch up. He went upstairs and came back down and said daddy you need to come and see this. Uncle Mitch is sleeping really funny. "Can you just Imagine" Matt went upstairs and Mitchell was in a cradle position with his face in the floor. He still had his head set on and his hands were still holding on to the controller. Matt yelled for Gary. Gary raised him up against the bed. He tried to give Mitchell CPR, but he couldn't pry his mouth open. "Can You Imagine" Not only did Gary and Matt have to see this, but five year-old Maverick. "Can You Just Imagine"

I went up to see Mitchell. I certainly wasn't prepared to see what I saw. Who would be? There layed my baby lifeless on the floor. He looked so bad and I just kept thinking this can't be real. Oh, but it was! This was the worst day in my entire life to see you're your son laying helpless with his crinkled hands stuck in that position. I told Mitchell I love you so much and I know you're in a better place.

This is what I want to ask you Aaron [REDACTED]. How could you do this to someone who thought you were his bestfriend? On messages between you and Mitchell, he was asking you questions about what to take and when. You called him several times and you kept sending him messages, and invites to the game. You knew he wasn't responding. Aaron [REDACTED] you could have called us, you could have messaged us or just ran over. No, you were too worried about yourself and chose to let Mitchell die. You are such a coward. We were constantly warning Mitchell to stay away from you. He really thought you cared about him. Mitchell put up with so much from you. He used to get so mad at you for

coming over to our house drugged up. Then a few years later, Mitchell starting using cocaine. Remember in January of 2022 Mitchell saved your life by calling your mom to check on you? You overdosed that day and if it weren't for Mitchell you probably would have died. Aaron [REDACTED] he was your friend. Remember all the cookouts at our house, the holiday dinners, the take out food. We treated you like one of our own. We see now how much Mitchell met to you and your family. Your dad used to tell me Mitchell was the only friend Aaron has and if it weren't for Mitchell you would be dead. I even called your father down to the city building one day and told him how worried we were for you. He told me if anything happened to Aaron it would be the death of your mother. Well guess what? It is slowly killing me and the rest of our family. The rescue squad was at our house. Did you come over and see what was going on? No, you started deleting messages. Message after message leading up to the end of Mitchell's life. Mitchell layed in that bedroom for approximately 20 hours and you knew. How could you do this? You came up with a few witness's to say that they were playing the game with Mitchell. One said two, one said 4:30. We know they are all lies and what do you call this? I'll tell you, a worthless monster. How do you even sleep at night.

You can walk around with your head held high and be so proud and your family is so proud of you and all your accomplishments. You should even be ashamed to say Mitchell's name. He meant nothing to you.

Everyone who knew Mitchell knew how kind, sweet and generous he was. His friends or at least he thought they were his friends *knew* he would pick up the tab on almost everything. Now we know these really weren't his friends they were all mouchers including yourself. But Mitchell would have never thought that. Mitchell just wanted to be loved by everyone. Everyone knew when you saw Mitchell you saw that beautiful smile and his big heart. Mitchell never met a stranger, if he didn't know you he would initiate a conversation. He loved his family. He dearly loved me and his dad. He knew we would do anything for him. Mitchell dearly loved his brother Matt. He dearly loved his nephew Maverick. He and Maverick were buddy's and Maverick looked forward to all Mitchell's shenagans and he had plenty. Mitchell will never get to meet his daughter Alahya or hold her. She is truly a blessing and she looks just like her daddy.

You took our life away that day. Yes, I know it was Mitchell's choice to take the drugs you sold him for 4 beers and four dollars, but you knew he was in trouble and you chose to let him die. You can say he must have left the house and traded what you gave him. You know and we know that is a lie. Mitchell did not leave our house. You know and we know from Mitchell's phone he took what you sold him and he died.

Aaron [REDACTED] you can try to lie to people and tell them a much different story but there's three people that know the truth. Mitchell, You and our heavenly father. It's certainly not

my place to judge anyone, but one day you and your family will meet your maker and I certainly wouldn't want to be you.