

February 24, 2025

The Honorable Chairman Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Ranking Member Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Re: The HALT Fentanyl Act

January 16, 2024 was like every other day. My husband and I decided to take a snow day, since the kids would be home.

My daughter lived in an apartment upstairs. She checked on the kids who were sleeping and left for work about 11am. Because of the snow, she was sent home and was home around 12pm. On her way home, my granddaughter called her and said she could not wake up her older sister and younger brother. They did not know we took off work and were home.

My daughter when upstairs when she got home and I will never forget her blood curdling screams, screaming for her dad.

My granddaughter and I called 911 while my husband and daughter did CPR on my grandson Gaige age 10 and my granddaughter Skylar age 14.

They were already gone, 2 out of my daughters 3 children gone.

By the end of the day and for the next week I received messages from her friend and acquaintances giving me messages for the detective on the person (child) responsible for giving Skylar "something". Skylar received something from another student that has fentanyl in it. Gaige ingested it as well. Our detective is working tirelessly, but as of last month, one year since their death, students are pointing fingers at each other. So, there has been no accountability. The student got it from somewhere, most likely an adult.

The next three weeks are a blur. We had judgement and an amazing support system. The service for Skylar and Gaige was beautiful with over 1000 people including the mayor and people we did not know. Little things were told to us like "I saw Gaige take off his coat, climb under my car and cover up a cat in the winter" and "Skylar was one smart cookie"

Skylar was 14 and in 8th grade. She was beautiful, caring, and funny. She was in honor classes and on the honor roll. She was a social butterfly, who loved her family and friends. Gaige was 10 and in 4th grade. So handsome. He was silly, empathetic, and a good friend. He loved turtles, his sisters, and his family. His turtle Vicki currently lives with his cousin Haley.

Our life is forever changed. I saw them every day. Every single day is heartache. These were babies that still had their whole life. We just knew that Skylar would be the First Woman President and all Gaige talked about was owning a roofing company like Pop Pop and his dad. A roofing Company that was named after our first 3 grandchildren. Skylar, Allyson, and Gaige.

Sadly, Gaige's dad took his own life 10 months later...unable to deal with the loss.

Almost 14 months later my daughter is not ok.... she's just running from everything, she isn't and has only been home off and on for the last year. I don't know where she is, and we are raising my 13-year-old surviving granddaughter Allyson.

Allyson is a pillar of strength. She is one of the vulnerable that people forget about. The one that has to live with what's happened. She lost her siblings, then her dad, and her mom. Her mom loves her, but her mom has to figure out how to move on and live without her children. So I have to be Ally's everything. She's lost her entire family.

Once there was confirmation it was fentanyl, The reality that both my daughter and husband who gave cpr and Allyson could have lost their life, just by touching it.

My grandchildren were not addicts.....they were kids.

Fentanyl does not discriminate by age, color, religion.

Fentanyl stole my grandchildren, their father and my daughter. My daughter will never be the same, Allyson will never be the same, our family will never be the same. I will never be the same.

Please Pass the HALT Fentanyl Act without amendments for the lost children

Kathy Jones

[REDACTED]
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Nana to Skylar Jones #forever14 and Gaige Dehaven #forever10

