

September 2023

Dear Senators, my name is Eileen McLeod-Fritz. I am the mother of 3 amazing young men, 2 still living in Wisconsin raising their children and one now residing in Heaven. I am thankful he had no children to leave behind.

Terry Alexander Fritz was a wonderful person: smart, loving, loyal and sick. He had 8 surgeries in the first 14 years of his life which resulted in him suffering from Substance Use Disorder. Terry started using other people's pills, but when that became too expensive, he switched to Heroin.

I lost Terry to Heroin Toxicity Homicide at the age of 26 on October 1, 2014. He was found alone in his car, engine running, windows open, 27 miles from home. He was pronounced dead at the scene; we never spoke or hugged again. I miss my son every second of every day. I know his story is not unique or even seldom heard, but it is special, he was special, and his legacy will not die.

I am begging you all to think about the thousands of people that pass from this Epidemic. Are you aware we lose an average of 3,000 people every month in this country? Do you realize that one rare plane crash, involving 100-140 deaths every few years gets more screen time and sends many federal employees into action for months... almost always resulting in new laws, large monetary settlements and even loss of jobs. Yet, we are losing that many American citizens every day to an illness that has been all but ignored by our Federal Government.

We need stricter laws, better education, stronger oversight of the Pharmaceutical Industry and, of course, more attention paid to the real drug dealers, not the afflicted. You have legislation in front of you now that needs your immediate attention and action. In 2017, the Wisconsin legislature unanimously enacted Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) class scheduling. Soon after, the DEA adopted it as National Policy. And, earlier this summer, the House of Representatives passed a bill to make permanent temporary scheduling of FRS into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. I encourage you to follow the previously mentioned entities and make the temporary policy permanent. I look forward to watching this happen.

Thank You, Eileen McLeod-Fritz, Delafield, Wisconsin

