



Kirk Knight  
President/Founder

561-573-3661

[Kirk@TheKnight-Foundation.org](mailto:Kirk@TheKnight-Foundation.org)  
[www.TheKnight-Foundation.org](http://www.TheKnight-Foundation.org)

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**RE: HB 1125**

Dear Chairwomen Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

During these challenging times we hope each of you and your families are staying safe. I would like to thank Delegate Beitzel for his hard work and leadership on this issue.

I write in support of HB 1125, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

On September 2, 2016 I lost my son to a fentanyl overdose. My foundation is committed to honoring my son and the growing population of horrific and tragic overdoses in this country. We/I support these important moves forward in legislation and policies to ensure the health and safety of our loved ones and future generations to come.

The rise of the prescription drug and opioid crises is a direct result in the failure to enact strong oversight, accountability, and education that should have been provided from the drug manufactures, our doctors, and our community representatives. These failures do not mean we cannot rebuild and establish governance that will lead the way and open doors to a healthier and safer future for so many. In order to reverse so much of the crisis that is killing our friends, families, and our children, we need to act on legislation and policies that help forge forward under an accountable and educated movement to implement and enforce the guidelines from the CDC and other regulatory commissions.

HB 1125 provides additional oversight and a more thorough checks and balance system. It provides acknowledgment of risk and the recognition of an anecdote.

Many states have moved forward to approve policy such as HB1125. We will not be the first, but how sad would it become if we were the last.

Warm Regards,

*Kirk Knight*

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