

**Testimony From Michele Kreider
in Support of SB0604/HB1398
Distribution of Heroin and/or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury of Death,
(Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh and Yader's Law)**

As in 2024, I am again in support of the above-named law and newly renumbered bills for 2025. My son is one of thousands who succumbed to Fentanyl poisoning. Blair Ross Kreider was found dead at the age of 33 on 11/18/2020. He had been battling addiction through a methadone program and relapsed during the height of COVID isolation. The stigma of being shamed by his addiction did not help his situation. He struggled in silence. The methadone program was not a permanent answer but a steppingstone to slowly adjust his body from addiction so that withdrawal might not be so severe.

Listed is what was found in Blair's toxicology report:

- Despropionyl fentanyl, 4-fluoroisobutryl fentanyl, methadone, morphine, xylazine.

Blair relapsed and fentanyl was the tip of the iceberg. He began opioids as a teen after a dirt bike accident left him with a broken back. He eventually healed, but once a back has been broken, pain is what must be dealt with as life moves on. Fentanyl was unheard of back then.

The police have not contacted me re an investigation, nor have they returned his 3 cell phones that were taken as evidence at the time of his death. Isn't that why they took his phones? Who provided Blair with the deadly cocktail? A murderer provided him with a deadly cocktail. These people need to be put in jail for aiding in the murder of a recovering addict.

A DEAD PERSON CANNOT BE TREATED!

FACTS:

Prior to 2020, most Americans, including myself, were unaware of illicit fentanyl. By 2020, drug deaths rose from 65,000 by fentanyl-laced illicit drugs. By 2023, drug deaths peaked above 112,000 with fentanyl responsible for the majority of these deaths.

2024 is too early in the year to obtain correct numbers, especially because some of these deaths are written off as "drug addicts overdosing" when in fact, most are being poisoned with fentanyl. Why not just pour arsenic into someone's rum & coke? What's the difference?

The Fentanyl crisis is still the leading cause of death among Americans aged 18-45; this has not changed. Recent reports citing drug overdoses have gone down is useless. This crisis is far from over. It's still BIG.

Politics of Fentanyl/Heroin 2024-25 – Why I am in support of these bills? 2025 is the first time a president has publicly announced a glimmer of hope to shut down illicit drug sales. If the distributors are proven guilty of the charges outlined in this bill, this bill enforces accountability and will keep dealers off the streets—big time dealers only profit from little time dealers. Profits can only be made by people who are allowed to profit.