

Edith Montalvan
Glenmont, Montgomery County, MD.

And:

Isis Flores
Aspen Hill, Montgomery County, MD.

February 12, 2025

FAVORABLE: SB SB604 and HB HB1398: Criminal Law - Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death - Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law.

My name is Edith Montalvan and I am the mother of Ashleigh Edwards, a 16-year-old student at John F. Kennedy School, who tragically passed away on January 14, 2023 due to a fentanyl overdose. I am also speaking on behalf of Isis Flores from Aspen Hill. Isis's son is Yader Rosa Flores, a 16-year-old who passed away due to a fentanyl overdose on November 10, 2022. Isis and I are both mothers who lost our children due to poison of fentanyl. Isis's testimony is attached too.

Fentanyl is killing our children. It is important that we take action to combat this crisis that is claiming the lives of so many young people. There is no greater pain for a mother than losing her child, much less in such a tragic way.

Addiction is a disease, and our immigrant community lacks the necessary resources and support to help those affected by this disease. I'm thankful to Montgomery County for stepping up in providing treatment centers for youth using fentanyl; however, at the State level, you have the power to help us by tightening the laws to curb the sale and distribution of this lethal drug.

No one will bring my daughter back to me. No one will bring Yader back to his mom Isis. We are not asking for punishment to those using the drug. I'm asking you to go after those bringing this poison to our community, targeting the most vulnerable.

Please use your legislative power to stop the distribution and prevent another innocent victim like Ashleigh and another grieving mother like me. I appreciate your attention and support in our fight against this lethal drug. Thank you very much.

Isis Flores
Aspen Hill, Montgomery County, Maryland

February 12, 2025

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My name is Isis Flores, and I want to talk to you about the devastating loss that we have suffered in our family. Yader Rosa Flores, my 16-year-old son, passed away due to a fentanyl overdose on November 10, 2022. His departure left a huge void in our lives and led us to discover the reality of this destructive drug. I am sending you this letter to be the voice of so many victims like Yader, who have lost their lives at the hands of drug dealers who distribute this deadly drug in our communities. It is necessary that justice be served for all the young people who have been victims of this tragedy.

That is why I call on those responsible for legislating in our state to take stricter measures against those who traffic and distribute fentanyl and heroin. We ask that severe penalties be applied to these criminals and that all necessary support be provided to the authorities to stop them. It is essential that the voice of the victims be heard, and that decisive action be taken to end this scourge that is taking the lives of our youth. As a mother who has suffered this tragedy, I urge you again that the law be changed and that those responsible for bringing this poison to our streets be relentlessly pursued.

In the name of Yader, an innocent teenager who lost his life for taking a fentanyl pill without understanding that it would kill him. I trust that together we can make a difference and prevent more families from experiencing this painful loss. Thank you.