

Isis Flores
Silver Spring, Montgomery County, MD.

February 14, 2025

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

My name is Isis Flores and I'm from Silver Spring. My son is Yader Rosa Flores, a 16-year-old who passed away due to a fentanyl overdose on November 10, 2022. I'm also here on behalf of Edith Montalvan; her daughter Ashleigh Edwards was a 15-year-old student who tragically passed away on January 14, 2023 due to a fentanyl overdose. Edith and I are among the thousands of parents who have lost their children due to fentanyl.

Yader's departure left a huge void in our lives and led us to discover the reality of this destructive drug. Today, I am here to be the voice of so many victims like Yader and Ashleigh who have lost their lives at the hands of drug dealers who distribute this deadly drug in our communities.

We are not asking for punishment to those using the drug. We want those who are using the drug to get help and recover. Anyone can end up using fentanyl. I'm asking you to go after those bringing this poison to our community, targeting the most vulnerable, and investigate those cases regardless of where the distribution of fentanyl and the death of the victim happens in Maryland.

As a mother who has suffered this tragedy, I urge you to fix through this bill the jurisdiction loophole we currently have in the state. It makes no sense that if the distribution of fentanyl happens, for example, in Frederick County, but the death of the fentanyl victim happens in Montgomery County, then to investigate and charge those responsible of distributing this poison is almost impossible. Fix this.

In the name of my son Yader, I ask for your support and action to approve Victoria, Scottie, Ashleigh, and Yader's Law.