

IN SUPPORT OF HB1398 – CRIMINAL LAW -DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN OR FENTANYL  
CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH (VICTORIA, SCOTTIE, ASHLEIGH, AND  
YADER'S LAW)

My son Kevin, died from illicit fentanyl poisoning on July 27 2021 at the young age of 27. Kevin was a kind, bright, handsome, and hard-working young man whose life was cut short because a drug dealer sold him something other than what he intended to take. This is the very definition of poisoning.

Kevin suffered from substance use disorder (SUD), Kevin first started using heroin at the age of 18, went to rehabilitation centers several times, and had many months of sober time in the 9 years he was in the grasp of SUD. Kevin always wished to be recovered and whole and he never quit trying to achieve that. Kevin had not used heroin the last 2 years of his life. He was on methadone therapy for several months prior to entering a rehabilitation facility to get off of methadone (methadone was not a treatment course that helped Kevin and I do have strong opinions on it and how it is handled in Maryland, but that is for a different forum). When he left that facility, he went directly into a recovery home that was known to him and was a well-run home, which there aren't many of in the state of Maryland. He was thriving at this home for almost a year when he relapsed. Kevin had not relapsed very long when he received 100% fentanyl instead of heroin. What Kevin wasn't aware of is that in the almost 2 years that he hadn't used heroin, illicit fentanyl flooded this country and totally infiltrated the heroin supply. All Kevin's chances of recovery were stolen from him the night a criminal drug dealer, unknowingly to Kevin, gave him illicit fentanyl.

There was no investigation that I am aware of. In fact, detectives didn't even bother to reach out to us with any questions. This is almost understandable when you consider that most DA's in the state of MD do not want to prosecute these cases. My son is gone, but this dealer is likely still peddling their poison and actively murdering people with it. The dealers continue to murder with impunity because there is no deterrent to their actions. They are quite literally getting away with murder. All drug related deaths SHOULD be investigated and there must be strong laws put in place to prosecute dealers that sell this poison. I often wonder how many unknowing victims have been poisoned by this same drug dealer since they killed my son.

My husband and I lost our son, his sister and brother lost their sibling, his grandparents lost their grandson, and his nieces and nephews lost their uncle. There are no more memories to be made with Kevin, that was stolen from us. The baby of our family was poisoned by illicit fentanyl, supplied by a drug dealer that has no regard for human life. Our family has been devastated by Kevins death, and the fact that his case has not been investigated and the dealer not prosecuted adds to that devastation. My family, along with thousands of other Maryland families deserve justice for our children. Everyone matters or nobody matters, which is it? Marylanders need this bill to pass to save lives and receive justice for the senseless poisoning of our children, by criminal drug dealers. We are losing a whole generation to illicit fentanyl poisoning. Right now, Maryland politicians have an opportunity to support a bill that can help prevent the increasing deaths from this poison in our state. Maryland families need your support instead of the ongoing failure to hold these criminals responsible for their actions. Drug dealers should not be getting away with murder as they currently are in Maryland. Please pass this bill, make a positive step in protecting your constituents.

Sincerely,

Anita Puckett  
Cecil County, MD

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