

September 2023

Dear Senators,

As the mother of a 33-year-old son who died of fentanyl and Xylazine poisoning in October 2022, I implore you to work with your colleagues and shut off the spigot once and for all that not only allowed Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) to enter our country legally, but incentivized their creation. You have before you bill language that passed the Wisconsin legislature on a unanimous vote, was adopted as national policy by the DEA, and which passed the House of Representatives earlier this summer. It's time for the Senate to act and make permanent temporary scheduling of FRS into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

Casey always struggled with some mental health issues starting with ADHD when he was eight years old and progressing to social anxiety and bad behavior. He was super intelligent and graduated high school with a 4.0 GPA. He got a Florida bright medallion scholarship to attend college. He was a classical pianist and also got a music scholarship. He got in a motorcycle wreck and was prescribed OxyContin. This began his addiction. He had gone eight years in remission with the help of medical assisted treatment by taking Suboxone. He made a decision to wean off of the Suboxone and his struggles really began then. He reached out to the detox crisis hotline -- the same one where he attended the buprenorphine clinic, so they knew his history, and they knew he had recently made the decision to get off the Suboxone. However, when he called them, begging for help that he needed help detoxing from the Suboxone, they basically sent him to his death by telling him he would need to "test positive" for a drug to get in. I feel this is a law that needs to be changed as well. When a person is reaching out for help, you don't tell them to go do drugs. So after eight years of not using anything but Suboxone, that is what he did, and ended up, getting murdered and poisoned with fentanyl and xylazine.

I miss my son terribly. I don't want to see any other families go through this, but yet we are losing 300 people a day. Something has to be done. My son did not want to die, he just wanted help. Casey #forever33

Sincerely, Kim Webster

