

Senate Judiciary Committee

United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Subject: Statement for the Record – Senate Hearing on Fentanyl Scheduling

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Megan LaDue, and I am writing to you as a grieving mother who lost my beloved son, Wade, to fentanyl poisoning. Wade was just 19 years old—young, full of dreams, and fighting hard to overcome his struggles. On August 11, 2023, his life was stolen by a pill he thought was xanax, but instead, it contained a deadly mix of fentanyl and xanax.

Wade wanted help. He asked for help the night he died. But the system failed him—both in stopping the flow of illicit fentanyl into our country and in providing the medical care he desperately needed. No family should have to endure this pain.

I am urging this committee to keep fentanyl as a Schedule I controlled substance. Drug dealers and manufacturers are knowingly distributing lethal poison, and without the proper classification, prosecutors will face even more barriers to holding them accountable. We need stronger tools to fight this crisis, not weaker ones.

Fentanyl has become the leading cause of death for young Americans. It does not discriminate. It is being mixed into fake pills, killing first-time users, those in recovery, and people like Wade—who had their whole lives ahead of them. This is a national emergency.

Wade's life mattered. His voice should still be here, but since it isn't, I will speak for him. I ask this committee to stand with families like mine and ensure that fentanyl remains a Schedule I drug. Our children's lives depend on it.

Thank you for your time and commitment to this fight.

Sincerely,

Megan LaDue

Mother of Wade