

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

My name is Jackie Long; I am from Baltimore County, Maryland and I am writing you about the HALT ACT.

My son Ryan was born on a Super Bowl Sunday; it became like a 2nd birthday for Ryan. We celebrated his birthday, and then on Super Bowl Sunday, one of those celebrations is pictured on a shirt given to me after he was poisoned to death to death by fentanyl.

I recently viewed photos and videos of our family vacation in Maine from July 2021, so many of them are of Ryan and the kids playing on the beach, throwing sand and seaweed on each other.

<<That was our last family vacation with my beautiful son Ryan.>>

The drugs he and his gf thought was cocaine and or Adderall, we don't know but I sadly now know that on November 23, 2022 the drug they used contained 3 to 4 times the lethal dose of Fentanyl and it killed my son and his girlfriend.

Her mother found them not breathing and called 911, but they were gone!

It only takes 2 mgs of illicit fentanyl mixed into cocaine or any drug to kill a person.

My son DID NOT WANT TO DIE. The person who distributed this poison was never investigated. Our families suffer while those responsible continue to distribute illicit fentanyl. That dealer who poisoned my son and his girlfriend to death was and maybe still is out there.

We don't know how many more mothers mourn and families are torn apart by a distributor of death. Sadly, this is a devastating story that you will hear too many times across this country, in every state, city, and community. Those lives lost are not "just" people who suffer with SUD,

but many are first-time users, and some, including children and babies, are being poisoned to death by illicit fentanyl and its analogues simply because it reached their household.

We are experiencing things we've never experienced before. We need current solutions. Let us work towards a framework that prioritizes lives and fosters accountability at every level.

I can assure you dealers and manufacturers of these illicit drugs do know there is a significant risk that illegal drugs have been intentionally contaminated with fentanyl and its analogues and do KNOW the illegal drug they are putting out on the streets will kill someone. Someone is my son; someone is his girlfriend, Stephanie, a mother of two. Some were the 10 and 14-year-old siblings found dead by their 12-year-old sibling in Perryville, Maryland, last Mar, 2024. And the deaths will continue until we make changes at every level. Permanent scheduling of fentanyl and its analogs will send a clear message that we are taking this crisis seriously and serious consequences will result for a person that continues to engage in the manufacturing and distribution of these deadly poisons killing our citizens from babies before they can even walk to senior citizens.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is a bipartisan bill that would permanently place fentanyl and related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

We need this to pass without amendments. We cannot afford to have this bill held up in Congress any longer. The lives of our citizens depend on this to pass. Too many lives have been lost already.

Please pass the HALT FENTANYL AND ITS ANALOGS ACT.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Jackie Long

