

July 14, 2023

Dear Senators,

As the grieving mother of a 24-year-old son who lost his life to the opioid epidemic, I urge you to act on the legislation that passed the Wisconsin legislature on unanimous vote, was adopted as a national policy by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), passed the House of Representatives, and now sits before you to make permanent the temporary scheduling of Fentanyl Related Substances (FRS) into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

My first-born son, Drew Swan, taught me the truest definition of love. When I brought him into the world on April 10, 1988, I knew that God had gifted me the greatest gift in all the world. My precious son, he will be mine forever. He was so inquisitive about learning and had an amazing servant-hearted attitude. His charisma lit up rooms, and every walk of life was drawn to his energy. He always cheered me up and cheered me on, brought music and laughter to my life, and filled my heart with more love than I ever felt capable of. My beloved first-born son.

This summer I attended a few of Drew's younger cousins' weddings and all I could think was that I'll never know that joy of a mother-son dance at Drew's wedding. I've been stripped of grandchildren, and I'm left heart-broken visiting my boy at his tombstone in the cemetery next to the house where I raised him. No parent should ever have to endure this pain. Life is but a shadowed version of its previous self. No amount of action you take will ever return my son to me, but I implore you to act now in order to save other mothers from enduring this same devastation. Do what you've been elected to do, and vote on the HALT of Fentanyl Act that sits before you.

Sincerely,
Tamara Swan
Forever Grieving Mother of Drew Swan

