

To the Oregon Judiciary Committee:
Regarding "Taylor's Law" - House Bill 2797

Despite living in Washington, I support the passing of this bill within Oregon. My story with Taylor begins early in life; our parents were close friends. I was, and am his godsister, and I remember visiting nearly every summer, thanksgiving, or other times of the year. We would come to Oregon, or the Martineks would come to us in Washington. Our house had and still has smiling photos of us kids, playing together, having fun, and making memories. I was lucky to have great conversations with Taylor, chatting about our lives, goals, pooling money together to buy gum, practicing receiving communion prior to easter confirmations, and even once having a pretend "wedding" ceremony.

While at his funeral, I remember being told that losing a child rips out your heart, and nothing can put it back. Your heart stays open, vulnerable, and feels like it can never be whole again. As a person who has lost someone, no matter how many tears you cry at their gravesite, bargain with God, or loudly scream, nothing will bring them back. You look at photos, at the never-aging person, and say "until we meet again." Your heart breaks, and you have trouble breathing, and you have to wipe the tears away, and take a few moments just to begin to function. I could only imagine how hard the phone call was for his family, how loudly they must have prayed and bargained with God, and how many pieces their hearts must of broken into.

I have no idea if you, the Oregon Judiciary Committee, have ever lost someone. I do not know if you have ever lost someone to addiction. However, when addiction is taken advantage of, and when it occurs, and another person, group, entity begin to sell, or force abuse onto another person, there should be a consequence. There is consequences for homicide, manslaughter, murder, but in cases of homicide that result from the selling of a controlled substance there is none. Three dealers received limited sentencing, in fact one dealer did not receive a sentence at all, and was allowed to capitalize on an addiction that resulted in death without any consequence. I support the changing of this law so that families, like the Martineks, can have the losing of their child be prevented, and people who take advantage of those who are suffering may not do so without repercussion.

Please support this bill, so that my story with Taylor does not end in only memories.

Respectfully,
Olivia J. Moore

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Taylor's Law