

We are writing you to confirm our strong support of HB 2797, a.k.a., Taylor's Law. As you consider this bill, we want you to know that Taylor Martinek is, was, and always will be a cherished member of our family. Taylor was an exceptional young man from an exceptional family and it is the epitome of unjust to know that Taylor has paid the ultimate price for his addiction but those who directly targeted him and contributed to his death are not facing any real consequences from their actions.

Not only have we been faced the devastating opioid related death of Taylor, later that same year we found ourselves dealing with another opioid overdose death of our oldest grandson's father. Like the circumstances of our beloved nephew, the person, or persons, who provided him the drugs were not held accountable.

I pray that as you read this you understand that this is indeed an epidemic that is striking an entire generation of people. They are dying, while families are becoming caregivers or burying their families/friends. This is not a lack of character of those affected or associated with the devastations of addiction. I would challenge anyone to find a more loving, educated, stable and youth centered family than our brother and sister, yet their remarkable son has died.

The deaths of these young men of themselves, is a travesty. Knowing that they have paid the ultimate price for their actions, while those who supplied them with the drugs that ended their lives have walked free, and are still distributing drugs, is a nightmare to us and all families who have suffered the same fate. We are a country of just laws, yet there is no justice when those that specifically target addiction, tamper with the product they sell to make it more addictive/deadlier, and then not only provide but systematically target individuals addicted to lethal drugs are not held accountable.

We implore you to do what you can to get this law passed in hopes that it provides a deterrence to opioid sales in the State of Oregon. And also, if it is within your doing, get laws such as HB 2797 spread to other States so that those painfully affected may know that something is being done to stop the ongoing opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Charlotte Martinek

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