

Taylor's Law

In 2017, roughly 47,600 documented deaths occurred from an opioid overdose. This is only a number in reference to documented deaths, this does not account for any undocumented deaths caused by opioid, which would increase the number given. This number continues to grow from year to year with no action being taken to resolve the ongoing issue from the political system. Coming from a medical background I can see the benefit for prescribed opioids for those who are in need for pain relief, but this letter is not intended for doctors or prescriptions.

I lost a friend named Taylor Martinek to the hands of opioids. After being involved in a sport injury, Taylor became addicted to pain killers and was seeking relief from the streets. Taylor bought Oxycontin from a drug dealer, not knowing that this small pill was going to kill him within the next 24 hours due to it being "laced" with a deadly dose of Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is an opioid used as a pain medication and together with other medications for anesthesia. Fentanyl is also made illegally and used as a recreational drug, often mixed with heroin or cocaine. It has a rapid onset and its effects generally last less than two hours.

With my training and experience in law enforcement and as a firefighter/EMT, I know that when Fentanyl is being laced with other drugs that the "manufacturer" has no reliable source on how to measure what a "healthy" dose would be, it is regulated by watching victims' reactions; No pain relief, or death. I have seen both sides of the manufacturer, delivery and the user within the walls of the jail. And no matter where you stand in that use of the drug, it is not a pleasant picture. For those that go through a dose and detox phase experience probably the worst sickness they have ever encountered. This letter is not intended for the user though. My disgust comes from the manufacturer and deliverer, and the horrific political system that encompasses the criminal justice system with their incarceration. When I was a Jail Deputy I would talk with these individuals; manufacturers and deliverers. They knew why they were in jail and had no shame in their actions. As I recall a quote from one of them, "I'm back to fluffy bunny camp," or "Oh this is a little vacation for me, and nothing will change when I get back out." The political policies and regulations that have been set forth to incarcerate these individuals is doing the opposite of what a person with common sense would like to see happen to these people.

I am writing this to seek a change in the Criminal Justice system on your side, the political side. The three different dealers either received: no sentence, 12 months' probation, and 28 months of prison... for the death of a person, a human that was killed. With this I want to fight to increase incarceration, fines and both in necessary to get the point across that this is not acceptable. With the current incarceration status, you will not see a change from the individuals that seek to ruin people's lives.

What would you do if you lost a loved one to this drug? What would be your reaction if this was the punishment that was given to someone who killed your family member or friend?