

Taylor's Law,

I am writing because I lost my mother to drug addiction. First, I feel your pain and sorry for your loss. Second, I am proud that someone is starting fight. Third, I just want someone to know my mother's story. I am willing to come to Salem on Thursday but thought I would start here. My mom was addicted to anything that would put her to "sleep," only prescriptions. As I was growing up, we didn't see the addiction until we all left the house. She was the coolest mom and she went out of her way to make each and everyone around her happy. All my friends and cousins thought she was the coolest mom in the world. After I moved out, we really noticed the addiction. We saw the sleeping when she was using and insomnia when she wasn't. She spent money as fast as it was coming in or even faster. She would be so asleep that her breathing became so slow, we thought she was dead. She would develop pneumonia and uti's when she was using. She didn't care about her appearance when she used. But when she wasn't, she was the best mom. When the first OD happened, she was put in the hospital in a coma for 4 months. We visited everyday. At one point, I whispered in her ear, "that if she wanted to go, I would let her go and love her no matter what. When she awoke after the 4 months, she had to learn to read, write, not pee her pants, and walk. That took over 1 year. I only know of 3 OD's where she was found in time. She went to treatment so many times, I couldn't count them. Every time, she took herself out after 1 week. She lived with me and my sister several different times after her husband divorced her over her addiction. She wrecked her car more times than not when she was using, only to walk away because her body was so suppressed she didn't get injured as bad. She was good at convincing doctors to keep prescribing her the prescriptions she wanted. Not one said anything to her about why she need another month of the drug after 1 week. Her tolerance developed to where she would take 5-10 pills in one sitting. Something that would kill a horse. One time she was living with me, it got to the point I had to change her and clean her like she was an infant. Her systems were so suppressed that she was sick. I took her to her doctor who examined her and said that she had a uti and pneumonia. I explained what was going on and at that time, she pissed her pants in front of the dr. I said she has a drug addiction and he prescribed her sleeping pills to help her sleep. I said please don't because she isn't feeling a thing. He said I was the worse daughter ever because I didn't want her to have pills. I said that I wasn't because I was looking out for her. He asked where she was getting the pills. I said online or from doctors like him. I cried as I left with my mother. She eventually found a studio apt to live in and then became homeless in Seattle. On Dec 27th, I got the call from King County that she had passed away. They said she was in a shelter for homeless women. When the morning came, they went to wake her and they start life saving efforts. Didn't survive the night. Blood test showed her usual cocktail of sleeping meds and a small dose of heroin. I didn't understand the heroin. As I was the executor of her will, I had the privy to her financial information. I noticed that about 90% of her money went to online pharmacies. My battle is with doctors and online pharmacies. Where is the responsibility of the medical profession? Where is the safety net for the internet? I have studied addictions, because of my mother, and found that majority of addiction to medications, which possibly leads to street drugs, start with a doctor. Just like your son. I am in full support of this bill and hope that it saves one life. Wish that life was my mother. Again, sorry for the loss of your son and my mother to such a horrible thing. Take care and you are all in my prayers.

Gail Franson

P.S. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or just to even let me know how things are going with Taylor's Law.