

To whom this may concern,

I pray that you take the time to really listen to the bill being presented to you by the Martinek family on 3/7/2019. As a student nurse who will be entering the workforce shortly after graduation, I have learned about and seen the effects of opioids on people of all ages and demographics. Addiction targets anyone it can and it's time to take a stand. A stand against the people who take advantage of the vulnerability of addicts and exploit their weaknesses. A stand against the people who have no regard for the life of another human being.

I knew Taylor Martinek in middle school, and then he continued to play football with my brother at Portland State University. He was an amazing guy who could light up a room and make you smile from ear to ear, but he was suffering a battle that isn't easy to overcome. Addicts are stigmatized and often times receive all of the blame for their illness, but we forget to look at the back stories behind these individuals. Taylor was successful, he was a high functioning member of society who had to battle day in and day out with this problem that started all because of an injury doing the thing he loved most, football. Taylor lost his life because someone out there took it upon themselves to sell lethal doses of a drug that is contraindicated for opioid addicts due to its risk for respiratory depression. Taylor lost his life so someone out there could make a quick buck. He needed help, and those dealers need jail time.

I hope you listen with your heart, because addicts are all around us. Some suffering in silence, and they are one dirty dealer away from a fate they don't desire.

Thank you for your time,
Kiara McDonagh