

To Whom it May Concern-

I am writing in support of Oregon HB2797 (Taylor's Law). It is so difficult for anyone to lose a loved one, let alone a young child with a promising future. I am a resident of Iowa and someone who was not able to have children. I have always loved hearing from friends and relatives who share all of the wonderful things happening in their children's lives. You can hear the pride in every word they share. This was very evident in Brian & Brenda Martinek's family. Taylor was a wonderful young man with a bright and promising future. He had a smile that could light up a room. Everyone loved Taylor. As it happens sometimes, repeated injuries can cause someone to be prescribed opiates by doctors to deal with the pain. Unfortunately those opiates meant to help that person can cause them to easily become addicted. This was the case with Taylor. Although his family tried desperately to help him, it was not enough. It is beyond my comprehension that folks who are selling these drugs illegally can go with minimal punishment when it causes a death. What is there to deter them from getting out and doing it again? How many lives lost does it have to take for this society to make the penalties more severe? No parent should have to deal with this type of heartache. No sibling should have to celebrate Taylor's birthday each year at his gravesite. I am asking you to please support Oregon HB2797 (Taylor's Law). ***You can be a leader in making the penalties for someone dealing drugs that results in death real punishment.*** You have the power to save lives and I urge you to vote in support of this legislation.

This last week in Fort Dodge, Iowa an officer pulled someone over for driving on a suspended license. They accidentally came in contact with a suspected form fentanyl. The officer quickly became lightheaded and dizzy and had to call dispatch for help. Medics found the officer unresponsive in his patrol car. The officer was given two doses of Narcan which saved his life. He was lucky that medics got to him in time. Unfortunately that didn't happen for Taylor and now there is one less place setting at holiday dinners. No parent should ever have to go through that again.

Sincerely,

Roxann Martinek

Cousin of Taylor

Marion, Iowa