

Chair La Re, Vice Chair Swearingen, and Ranking Member Leland; hello my family is from a small town in Northeast, Ohio called Champion. We built a house here for the beauty of a small town to raise out two boys. My youngest child suffered from an anxiety disorder from a chemical imbalance in his brain. We spent years during his early years in treatment making great strides. He graduated high school, was a captain of the high school soccer team, excelling in his studies to go on to be a college graduate of Kent State with a degree in education. After landing a very good job he went from buying his first new car to buying his first home.

My son attended a party after college meeting someone from our hometown that introduced him to drugs. With my sons anxiety always being a challenge something happened that day. He found relief from all his anxiety from this guy selling drugs after being exposed at a party. This person was warned that my son had a problem yet he continued to sell the drugs using social media to contact him. My son was seeking help and bought his first home, was working and had his whole life ahead of him. This guy was lacing his drugs with fentanyl. Well if any of you know anything about this you know that a small amount a few grains a salt can kill you. Yet this person contacted my son that day and my son told him, no he was going to pass. The drug dealer went on to threaten him. He told him never again to talk or ask for anything if he did not come get this drug that day. By that night we believe our son passed away at 26 years old from a fentanyl poisoning, yes a poisoning. The police did not investigate this as a drug induced homicide. Ohio is lacking that law.

The new CODAS bill would help prosecute these dealers and help the addiction problems in Ohio. We need this desperately to save other families from ever living through what we have endured. Losing a child is the worst thing that can happen to you. That dreadful day took my sons life. We in Ohio are not punishing the dealers or helping the addicts. The dealer that sold to my son that day had 17 drug felony charges 8 arrests at 25 years old. He walks the streets free to kill again due to our lax laws. We have got to do better. No one should go through what we have been through. Trying to pursue a drug dealer to be shot down when we had all messages as proof. Laws must change to save this generation. Please pass the CODAS bill. It's a start to saving our kids. We will be heartbroken forever. Please let's get this passed as soon as we can to stop this drug epidemic that has killed over 100,000 this year and numbers are rising. We must do better. This bill will help prosecute the dealers and get addicted people the help they desperately need. Thank you for your time to listen to our family's story.

Sincerely,

Lisa LeMon