

## Proponent Testimony House Bill 88

Chair Thomas, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Isaacsohn and members of the House Judiciary Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 88.

My name is Tom Quehl and my wife is Stephanie Quehl. We are from Loveland, Ohio.

We are the founders of the DOITFORJACK Jack Quehl Foundation. We speak to our nation's youth and their parents on the dangers of Fentanyl. We present to High schools, Elementary schools, athletic teams and corporate organizations. We have been guests on numerous podcasts and Radio stations. Our message is to "Know". Know the facts about Fentanyl. Know that every 5 out of 10 illegal pills are laced with Fentanyl. Know that Fentanyl is cheap, easy to make, highly addictive and extremely potent. And "Know" that you can expect Fentanyl.

Our son Jack died from Fentanyl poisoning in September of 2021, two months after he moved to his new job in Baltimore. Jack was everything you would dream of in a son. He was smart, athletic, kind and loved life. One wrong decision by Jack and his friend Chris cost both their lives. At the time of Jack's death, we knew very little about Fentanyl. Now we know it all too well.

House Bill 88 is a great start for our cause of protecting our youth and young adults. Increasing penalties for trafficking of illegal drugs is well overdue. As representative Abrams has stated, this bill does not penalize immigrants who are trying to come to our great country legally. This bill is about taking criminals off the street and drawing a line in the sand to state that drug trafficking in Ohio comes with severe consequences.

Every day, we read about federal, state and local authorities seizing fentanyl from people whose intent is to distribute. Now, imagine what is getting through. In 2024 alone, the US seized enough Fentanyl to kill every American. By most accounts, this is the tip of the iceberg. It is truly a weapon of mass destruction. If we don't start protecting our nation's youth and young adults, we will not have anyone to love or cherish. We will not have a generation to carry on the freedoms that we all hold dear.

In closing, we would like to thank you for the time today to give our testimony. We will hold up our end of the bargain and continue to share Jack's story and to inform our nation's youth and their parents about the dangers of Fentanyl. We ask you to hold up your end to protect our citizens by supporting House Bill 88.

Thank you.

Tom and Stephanie Quehl

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