

September 7, 2023

## **Families With Loved Ones Lost to Overdose Oppose Criminalization, Call For Health Solutions**

As people who have lost loved ones to overdose, we know saving lives requires health solutions. Please join our letter urging lawmakers to oppose more punishment and instead embrace lifesaving health responses to the overdose crisis.

### **Open Letter to Lawmakers:**

There is a tragic overdose crisis in the United States. More than 100,000 people were lost last year alone. We know the pain firsthand. We have lost our loved ones to overdose. And through the pain of our loss and grief, we see that there is another horrific tragedy unfolding. *Opportunistic politicians supported by law enforcement are using the overdose crisis and parents' grief to pass harsh drug laws that will only continue to fill our morgues and prisons.* Punitive laws will not bring our loved ones back, but they will subject other parents' children to more suffering and deny them the support that can keep them alive.

**Treating problematic drug use as a health issue, instead of a criminal one, is the best way to keep our families safe and healthy. We call on you to oppose punitive laws that will only make the overdose crisis worse.**

- **No more laws for drug-induced homicide that charge people with murder when they sell or share drugs that result in a fatal overdose.** Most of these laws punish family, friends, or people involved with low-level selling. They do not reduce drug use, sales, or deadly overdoses that are often fentanyl-involved. But they do cost

lives because fear of prosecution deters people from seeking help in an emergency.

- **No more laws creating severe mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.** These policies target people with minor roles in sales, many of whom also use drugs themselves. People caught selling even the smallest amount could automatically be given years in prison.
- **No more laws increasing sentencing for possession of drugs for personal use.** Arresting and incarcerating people for drugs has failed to keep us safe. Putting people behind bars can force them into withdrawal which can increase the chance of fatal overdose. And people are at much higher risk of a drug overdose after being released from prison.

**Instead, in honor of the memory of our loved ones, we demand health-based solutions focused on overdose prevention, harm reduction, and treatment including:**

- **Decriminalize drugs and invest in health alternatives.** Instead of arresting and jailing people for drug possession, we must reinvest the savings into addiction services and social supports.
- **Syringe services, drug checking services, and access to lifesaving medications like naloxone.** These reduce harm by curbing the spread of infectious diseases, detecting adulteration in the drug supply, and reversing opioid overdoses.
- **Overdose prevention centers** where trained professionals can reverse fatal overdoses and connect people with a range of ongoing care.
- **Evidence-based, effective, voluntary treatment options** available on-demand for those that want help. This includes access on-demand for the opioid use disorder medications methadone and buprenorphine.



- **Reality-based drug education** to equip youth with accurate information to reduce potential harms of drug use.
- **Ending punishment for drugs within civil systems** so that people no longer face barriers to basic needs such as food, housing, and jobs.

We are fighting to save lives so no one else has to go through the heartbreak and pain we've experienced. We can't punish our way out of the overdose crisis. We call on lawmakers to address it by opposing harsh punishment for drugs and enacting health responses that save lives.

**Signed By:**

<b>Signer</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>In Honor Of</b>
Lori Rodd	Arizona	Blake McCarthy (my son) forever 30
Sam Snodgrass	Arkansas	Lesha Brebaugh age 54
Sandra Chavez	California	Jeffrey Lloyd Chavez 24
Denise Cullen	California	Jeff Cullen. 27
Joe Dunkle	California	Ben Dunkle (20)
Aimee Dunkle	California	Benjamin Dunkle – aged 20
Tom Dunkle	California	Benjamin Dunkle – aged 20
Jillisin Engbers	California	Sage Martin Engbets
Rema Ghuloum	California	Jeff Cullen, 27
Shontel Grivno	California	Roger Casey Grivno 34
Ellen Isaacs	California	P. Ryan Wroblewski
Teresa Lamm	California	Jason C McDaniel 22
Janet Lloyd	California	John Martin Perekins
Lin Lloyd	California	John Martin Perkins
Kory Lloyd	California	John Martin Perkins
Marie Minnich	California	Mary Mickelsen, Age 32
Sandy Rosete	California	Holly Melissa Kruse
Cherie Spitzen	California	Marieka Age 26
T Towery	California	Jeff Cullen



Pattie Vargas	California	Joel David 35
Maureen Wittels	California	Harris Lee Wittels / 30
Cara Wykowski	California	Eric Henry Wykowski age 31
Helen Alvillar	Colorado	Leo John Espinosa age 34
Shauna Alvillar	Colorado	Leo John Espinosa age 34
Gretchen Ford	Colorado	Ashton Ford – aged 22
Jeri Paull	Colorado	Ryan Christopher Paull, 29
John Lally	Connecticut	Timothy Lally 29
MaryBeth Cichocki	Delaware	Matt Klosowski forever 37
Patricia Roos	D.C.	My son Alex, 25 years of age
Penny Brienza	Florida	Amanda Davis forever 30
Sarah Couper	Florida	Maxwell Ellis Quevedo-Couper 19 years old
Jessica Craft	Florida	Arthur Green Jr 32
Arlene Danahy	Florida	John J Danahy, (Massachusetts)
Alice Mcnamara	Florida	Ashley Gieselman 34 5/23/2020-----
Julia Negron	Florida	Laura Ballinger, 47. Connie Ballinger 33
Charles Negron	Florida	Marlene Bianqui 35
Janice Spring	Florida	Derek Spring, 18
Karen Towery	Florida	Jeff Cullen age 27
Mary Vollmer	Florida	Timothy Hays Vollmer
Stacy Williamson	Florida	Amber-Lee Johnson, age 28
Karyn O'Miller	Georgia	David O'Miller 33
Patricia Rudd	Georgia	Tyler Rudd, forever 20 yrs old
Brian Augstin	Illinois	Kegan Pelo
Tamera Bishop	Illinois	John Moore 39
Carolyn Bloom	Illinois	Ricardo Gist
Lori Brown	Illinois	Justin Pratt 26
Carrie Clifton	Illinois	Joshua Robert's 35
Amela Collom	Illinois	Sean Collom
Abigail Coons	Illinois	Tanner, 31
Deana Corrigan-Shupp	Illinois	Asher J. Zawacki 26
Sarah Fleischauer	Illinois	Matthew Kinman
Bryce Foster	Illinois	Jessie "rhubarb" Rubnich age 21
Bryan Gooding	Illinois	Bretta Gooding 32
Lynne Holley	Illinois	Patrick Holley



Aaron Humphreys	Illinois	Adam 19
Amber Jackson	Illinois	Tim Howard 27, Chris Cook 27
Melissa Jozwiak	Illinois	Johnnie Avila, 57
Jessica Kinsel	Illinois	Richard Long Jr. age 28
Deborah Kirsch	Illinois	Jesse Leibowitz 28 yrs.
Marita Landreth	Illinois	Joshua Olt age 16
Lawrence Maushard	Illinois	Joshua Olt, 16
Taylor Maxfield	Illinois	Jessica, 23
Kathy A McNeil	Illinois	Hannah McNeil age 30 Randy Longman 40-something
Kristen Meierkord	Illinois	Tony Seipel 48
Marilee Odendahl	Illinois	Ian Murphy-Mitchard, 28
Tamara Olt	Illinois	Joshua Olt age 16
Robert Paul	Illinois	Tory Allen
DeVonte Pierce	Illinois	DeWayne Bell 26
Elizabeth Prete	Illinois	Gregory
Barbara Ramp	Illinois	Alec Ramp age 20
Xander Ritter	Illinois	Joshua Olt age 16
Elizabeth Saunders	Illinois	Lee Michael Collins (31)
Chris Schaffner	Illinois	Abbey Christensen
Corey Schneider	Illinois	Debra Kay Adams 50
Andrea Schneider	Illinois	Ron Johnston
Aaron Slaughter	Illinois	Kevin Carlson 41
Rhiannon Songer	Illinois	Mark A. Lowe JR. 44 years old
Amanda Tippet	Illinois	Shawn Ballard
Susan Tisdale	Illinois	Richard T. Duney Long Jr age 28
Destiney Ulrich	Illinois	Brittany Pittman
Lorelei Volpe	Illinois	Josh Olt age 16
Anthony Walraven	Illinois	Michael Rabjohns 30
Jill Wolf	Illinois	Dan, 57
Rhonda Stein	Indiana	TJ Stein 25
Brenda Cooley	Kentucky	Adam Cooley, 27
Barbara Juett	Kentucky	Tiffany Juett 33
Elaine Schwartz	Kentucky	Lee Micheal Collins, 31
Jan Towery	Kentucky	Jeremy Colwell -32-
Sharon Bailey	Maine	Matthew Forever 20yrs old



Heather Blumenfeld	Maine	Teddy Dalton 33
Barbara Allen	Maryland	Jim, 35; Bill, 36, Amanda, 25, Tom, 64
Liz Bement	Maryland	Alex Bement, Forever 27
Jessie Dunleavy	Maryland	Paul Dunleavy Reithlingshoefer, age 34
Lisa Filer	Maryland	Aidan Keene Filer 22 years old
Jeanette Knapp	Maryland	Tara Knapp 33
Giovanna Arez	Massachusetts	Samantha Morrison 31
Darleen Berg	Massachusetts	Magne Berg, 32 yrs old
Lynne Clifford	Massachusetts	Jessica Clifford
Joanne Fontaine	Massachusetts	Christopher Fontaine forever 27
Debi Garrity	Massachusetts	Jay Garrity. Forever 29
Audrey Hudson	Massachusetts	Taylor Elyse Richards 24
Cheryl Juaire	Massachusetts	Sean Merrill 42 Corey Merrill 23
Cara Moser	Massachusetts	Eliza Harper
Judy Putnam	Massachusetts	Michael Reynolds 36
Sheryle Rooney	Massachusetts	Suzanne Rooney
Deb Tarasuik	Massachusetts	Kimberly Tarasuik
Carol Wiles	Massachusetts	Chrystian age 30
Susan Elamri	Michigan	Ramse Elamri 29
Patricia Moore	Michigan	Charter Geoffrey Moore - age 35
Claudia Remenar	Michigan	Marianne Deschaine, 35
Judy Tubaro	Michigan	Philip Tubaro 39
Michele Wagner	Michigan	Mitchell 23
Pamela Lanhart	Minnesota	Jacob Daniel Lanhart 24
Becky Fuqua	Missouri	Jena Marie Fuqua
Diane Goldstein	Nevada	Billy Wattles, 47
Debi Nadler	Nevada	Brett Nadler forever 28
Darcy Patterson	Nevada	Kirsten Yamaoka 21 years old
Lynn Spiller	Nevada	Jeffrey Spiller 46
Inez Fabiano	New Hampshire	Michael Fabiano age: 28
Joe Adipietro	New Jersey	Brian Adipietro 38
Tonia Ahern	New Jersey	Rory Ahern 29
Pauline Damiano	New Jersey	Phylcia 27
John Kely	New Jersey	Sean Patrick Kelly
Kevin Moore	New Jersey	John Bell, 64
Julie Sanchez	New Mexico	Marshall Sanchez



Theresa DiSilvestre	New York	Thomas Anthony DiSilvestre. Age 24
Lori Drescher	New York	Jonathan Drescher died 2021 age 30
Kym Haney	New York	Brock Richard Haney and Barrett Michael Haney
Barbara Klein	New York	Nathan Klein 29
Judy Moffitt	New York	Lewis Quensenberry Age 40
Karine Montanye	New York	Nico Scroggy
Alexis Pleus	New York	Jeff Dugon
Peggy Pomeroy	New York	Donald age 28
Kevin Pomeroy	New York	Donald age 28
Deborah Quesenberry	New York	Lewis Quensenberry Age 40
Elizabeth Rowntree	New York	Courtney Marie Goddard forever 36
Mary Stafford	New York	Clayton Stafford age 26
Victoria Albright	North Carolina	Nesta Gerberding, 39
Stephanie Almeida	North Carolina	Michael Roe O'Donnell and James Toon
Denise Buro	North Carolina	Robert 27
Dianne Carden-Glenn	North Carolina	Michael Russel Carden, age 40
Terri Dockins	North Carolina	Curtis Dockins 28
Jordan Scott	North Carolina	Will Kavanaugh
Laura Cash	Ohio	Mark A. Stone, 28 years
James Cash	Ohio	Mark A. Stone, 28 years
Betty Churchill	Ohio	Ryan Churchill
Susan Ferris	Ohio	Cody James Forever 29
Tracey Kemper	Ohio	Jason Hermann
Patricia Perry	Ohio	Michelle Baker 29
Troy Towery	Oregon	Jeff Cullen 27
Nancy Towery	Oregon	Jeff Cullen, 27
Cheryl Bernstine	Pennsylvania	Brandon Bernstine 41
Ingrid Callenberger	Pennsylvania	Jennie Louise Campana, 46
Fran Ciabattoni	Pennsylvania	Dominic J. Ciabattoni
Michelle Creasy	Pennsylvania	Jeremy Howard Creasy, forever 27
Marie Datillo	Pennsylvania	Eric Daniel Poore - Age 22
Jan Fay	Pennsylvania	Carly 30
Amy Harding	Pennsylvania	Ethan
Debra Hartley	Pennsylvania	RayRay Hartley age 34
Pamela Keefe	Pennsylvania	Michalene Dougherty



Michael Lang	Pennsylvania	Michael A. Lang 29
Debra Mannella	Pennsylvania	Seth Mannella age 29
MK O'Shea	Pennsylvania	BRIAN O'SHEA
Susan Ousterman	Pennsylvania	Tyler Cordeiro, 24
Doree Simon	Pennsylvania	Kevin Simon, age 23
Marianne Sinisi	Pennsylvania	Shawn Sinisi 26
Gerriann Tealer	Pennsylvania	James Daniel Celli IV age 29
Elizabeth Thomas	Pennsylvania	Allen Szyszko 27
jane woods	Pennsylvania	Ethan, 20
Autumn Young	Pennsylvania	Hannah Estep 19
Elizabeth Perkins	Puerto Rico	John M Perkins, Jr. age 30 4-16-81 * 5-5-11
Pat Nardolillo	Rhode Island	Krista Marie Nardolillo 36
Bob Nardolillo	Rhode Island	Krista Nardolillo
Melanie Fogle	South Carolina	Jeffrey Fogle 34
Mary Fulmer	South Carolina	David Robert Tolleson age 23
Dana Kirkbride	South Carolina	Grant Kirkbride age 27
Denise Patterson	South Carolina	Josiah McGrath Patterson 21
Kelly Stone	South Carolina	Mark Stone age 28
Dori Moreno Korn	Texas	Mia Justice Smith, 23
Samantha Anderson	Utah	Josh Voy
Jessica Arbogast	Utah	Jessica Jimenez.
Danielle Davidson	Utah	Christina Davidson
Kassandra Grubb	Utah	Sunflower Robinson 26
Sandra Kresser	Utah	Joshua Sam Kresser - 25
Katara Martin	Utah	Dalen Eli Nyberg
Mary Jo McMillen	Utah	Christine Murray age 55
Jen Plumb	Utah	Andy Plumb, age 22
January Rigglin	Utah	Anthony 22
Darlene Schultz	Utah	Adam - 22
Mindy Vincent	Utah	Maline Hairup- 38- My sister
Jean (Barr) Koch	Vermont	Tommy Barr
Maryjane Hall	Virginia	Charles Brendan Hall. 28
Kathleen Iliff-Darnell	Virginia	Christian Alan Iliff
Kelly Lloyd	Virginia	John Martin Perkins
Kristi Pruitt	Virginia	Lauren & Dean 25





Mary Quinn	Virginia	Brianna Quinn 22
Alice Ferwerda	Washington	Gina Purcell 62
Jay Towery	Washington	Jeff Cullen 27
Diane Towery	Washington	Jeff Cullen 27
Kathy Woudzia	Washington	Jessica - 34
Rebecca England	West Virginia	Ethan Tyler England 4/94-8/18-
Kari Allison	Wisconsin	Andy Melius
Jill Barney	Wisconsin	Bryan Barney, 33
Danielle Berry	Wisconsin	Kyle Blecha
Tracy Burtis	Wisconsin	Cody Burtis
Annette Czarnecki	Wisconsin	Sarah Marie Caldwell, 32
Bev Kelley-Miller	Wisconsin	Megan Rose Kelley, Forever 22
Elizabeth Lighthizer	Wisconsin	Andrew Melius 37
Thomas Staehler	Wisconsin	Patrick Staehler 49
Tyler Strupp	Wisconsin	Andrew Melius 37
Martine Tate	Wisconsin	Valerie Anne Powers-(36)
Cody Tonsor	Wisconsin	Andy Melius