

Andrea Thomas
2453 Industrial Blvd
Grand Junction, CO 81505

November 28, 2021

The Honorable Michael Bennett
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senators Bennett and Hickenlooper,

My eldest daughter, Ashley Romero, was poisoned by half a counterfeit Oxycodone pill that was made with fentanyl. A pill she got from someone she trusted. A pill she thought was something it wasn't. She had no idea what he was taking.

Because of its potency and low cost, drug dealers have been mixing fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances with other drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine, increasing the likelihood of a fatal interaction. Producing illicit fentanyl is not an exact science. Two milligrams of fentanyl can be lethal depending on a person's body size, tolerance, and past usage. Fentanyl slows respiration and can cause sudden death. The death toll is rising every day.

Right now, many fentanyl related analogues are not currently on a Controlled Substances Act permanent schedule. We need to ensure that all fentanyl-related substances and all the analogues-both specific and broad become permanently scheduled Controlled Substances to allow law enforcement to better prosecute the criminals distributing and selling counterfeit drugs laced with this deadly substance.

As part of my mission to educate people about the dangers of counterfeit drugs, I co-founded the Voices for Awareness Foundation (<https://www.voicesforawareness.com>), an organization that works to bring awareness of the dangers of illicit drugs, drug addiction, self-harm, and suicide to the residents of Grand Junction, and across the whole country.

We need to continue to raise awareness about counterfeit medications. Just one pill, or half of one, that's all it takes. Please protect our families and support any legislation that would permanently schedule fentanyl and its analogues so we can go after these criminals.

Sincerely,



Andrea Thomas