

Date: 1/23/2024

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

C/O: Kansas House Corrections & Juvenile Justice

From: Andy Burris, (Father of Cruz Burris), 129 Hampton Ct. Lansing, KS 66043

Subj: Testimony for HB 2487 – Good Samaritan Law

Chair and Committee,

My name is Andy Burris. On January 18, 2023, my wife Rhonda and I lost our beautiful son, Nicholas Cruz Burris, “Cruz”, due to Fentanyl poisoning.

Our testimony begins with Cruz – He was a vibrant 15-year-old boy. Like many children his age, me included, he was curious about many things in life. And with the evolution of the Social Media platforms, including Snapchat, he decided to answer an advertisement from a local drug dealer. I define them as “predators”.

As a prominent leader of his friend circle which we coined, “The Pack”, Cruz thought he would adventure where none of his friends have gone before. Tuesday evening, January 17th, 2023, he planned with the drug dealer to deliver a pill to Cruz, perhaps in exchange for \$10.00.... Sometime in the hours of 11pm-ish, Cruz met him in front of our house to make the deal and purchase what Cruz **thought** was a Percocet pill.

As Rhonda and I slept, Cruz sat on his bed and “Face-timed” a couple of his closest friends to share the experience of Cruz getting high. As Cruz ingested the pill, his friends witnessed the tragic events that came shortly after. Cruz’s friends witnessed Cruz 1) Ingesting the illicit drug 2) Stop breathing 3) fall to his side until his death.

The descriptions are the scenario Rhonda and I vision as even after a year later, his friends have not detailed the actual events and they are still in deep pain and sorrow for the loss of their friend.

Shortley after midnight, 1/18/2023, Cruz’s friends texted our, then 15-yesr-old daughter, Jaci, and asked her to check on Cruz because he was “Tweaking”. Being hard asleep, as Rhonda and I, she didn’t hear the text.

Again, as 15-year-old children, they were scared to death to call Rhonda and I, they were afraid to dial 911 for fear of getting either Cruz in trouble or themselves in trouble.

I believe if the Good Samaritan was an active law, the boys might have felt confident to take quick action with understanding there would be no repercussions to them... for being a good citizen and friend.

Lastly, helping our friend, neighbor or stranger is the American way. I pray this Bill gets passed and I further devote my mission to get drug education with the emphasis on our Fentanyl Pandemic as well as educating our children to speak up if you see someone needing immediate medical attention.

Thank you for your time,
Andy Burris