

To Whom it may concern,

Taylor Martinek was one of my best friends and like a brother to me. He was a loyal friend, brother, son, grandson, teammate and so much more.

I cannot believe I have to write this letter about my friend. I never thought this would be a reality and some days I still hope it's a bad dream I will wake up from soon.

Taylor was the most loyal friend. He was like family to me. Taylor and I talked almost everyday and I would go over to his apartment to hangout with him and a couple friends at least twice a week. No matter what was going on in my life I could count on Taylor to put a smile on my face with one of his corny jokes. Taylor couldn't drive and would often call me for rides. We always turned those rides into an adventure or dinner or something fun. I so wish I could give Taylor just one more ride.

On January 14th 2017 at 8:30pm I was playing games at my aunt and uncles house with some family. I checked my phone and noticed I had a missed call from Taylor's mom. She then texted me and said "call me". On January 14th 2017 at 8:35pm I found out my best friend died. She said "Kelly it's about Taylor. I want you to hear this from me before you find out from anyone else. Taylor passed away this afternoon". I still get scared every time I have a missed call from Taylor's mom. I remember that night like it was yesterday.

I never want anyone to know what it is like to lose someone to a drug overdose. There are so many unanswered questions, and what ifs. "What if I had called him that day like I was going to?"

Taylor struggled from addiction. Addiction is a mental illness. Taylor didn't choose to become addicted, however, he chose to try and fight his addiction. On January 14th he struggled to fight and thought he was buying oxycodone, but a drug dealer sold him a lethal dose of fentanyl.

A drug dealer capitalized on Taylor's illness and because of that I will never get to see my best friend again. Taylor didn't choose addiction and he didn't choose to die. But a drug dealer chose to capitalize on Taylor's illness and sold him fake pills.

This is bigger than Taylor. Drug dealers need to be help accountable for their actions. Other families and friends are losing their friends and family because of drug dealers like Taylor's. Because of the selfish actions of Taylor's drug dealer I had to say goodbye to my best friend at the funeral home. I had to stand hand in hand with his family and our other friends and watch him be buried. While his drug dealers walked free.

I am urging you to please pass house bill 2797 "Taylor's Law". This is IMPORTANT. Drug dealers are choosing to sell these drugs. Taylor didn't choose to die.

Kelly Kramer

Portland, OR

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Taylor's Law