

To whom it may concern,

We strongly urge you to support HB 2797, Taylor's Law.

We've known Taylor Martinek and his family for over 15 years and regularly carpooled to and from grade school with their children and ours. To lose someone so vibrant and full of life to the greedy, malevolent, despicable people who prey off those with addiction disorders is at one end, heartbreaking and the other, cause for immediate justice.

We're pretty sure you're going to hear during live testimony from experts in the field who will paint the horrific picture of opiate addiction in Oregon so no need for us to bring your attention to the matter. It's a horrible state of affairs and we hope this law is one step in eradicating this predatory behavior. Our purpose for writing to you is to demand a higher standard. For the person who sold the illegal drugs to Taylor---NOT to serve time in prison is unacceptable. This predator needs to be off the streets for a long time. Do we hope the dealer changes? Yes, but we also want them to know that Oregon citizens are more than ready to pay to lock up these criminals to save another young life.

But this is one step. Locking up the predators is only an attempt to turn off the supply. The next burden on you is on the addicted. One of us works in downtown Portland and has to deal with addicted people every single day. These troubled souls are in dire need of serious help with their personal lives; managing money, housing and getting the right health/dental care. Many of them are victims of more than a decade of substance abuse and are easy targets for those with a broken moral compass.

We can, AND SHOULD, have powerful punishments in place to restrain those wishing to manipulate or take advantage of those addicted to these substances . . .but we must also make it hard for the predators to succeed by surrounding the addicted with the services necessary to become productive, fully functioning members of society.

Please vote in favor of HB2797.

Sincerely,

*Richard & Susan Skayhan*

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