



**Families United  
Against  
Inhalant Abuse**

March 24, 2025

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Testimony Statement in support of SB1032 re: Regulation of Duster Aerosols in the State of Oregon.

Good afternoon, Chairman Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham and members of the Committee. My name is Claudia F. Dimit and I am testifying in support of SB1032, a law that would require retailers of Difluoroethane (DFE) Dusters to store them “behind the counter,” require purchaser identification (18 years of age), limit the number of cans purchased, and require the cannister to provide adequate warnings regarding the dangers of inhalant use.

I am participating in this hearing today to testify as a Mother who lost her son due to the inhalant use of Duster and as the President of the Families United Against Inhalant Abuse Foundation.

On November 14, 2012, I received a call from a Detective in the Los Angeles Police Department. I was in a school administrator’s meeting at the time and can remember how shocked I was when I was pulled from the meeting to take the call. When this stranger told me that he had found my son deceased in his apartment that morning, surrounded by Duster cans, I was overwhelmed with emotion. I had not been able to contact him for 2 days and called his neighbor to check on him. At that moment, when I finally processed what the detective had told me, my heart just sank to my stomach and I can honestly say that Nov. 14, 2012, was the worst day of my life.

My son Brandon, was 28 years old when he died. He was a college graduate and a professional cameraman in Los Angeles County, CA. He was the light of my life and we were always very close. We talked often about his work and he would send me video of the projects he was working on. As an independent contractor, he had become very successful.

One day when I was unable to contact Brandon by phone, my husband and I decided to take a drive to his apartment. At the time, both my husband and I knew nothing about inhalant abuse or Duster huffing. When we found Brandon, he had gone through 24 cans of Duster in a 3-day period of time. His skin was very red, he had freezer burns on his arm, his eyes were vibrating involuntarily back and forth,

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and he had been vomiting blood. All of these medical issues are common symptoms of Duster inhalant use.

We took Brandon to the Emergency room where little if any treatment was provided and he was sent home. Brandon experienced extensive physical trauma during his 20 days of inhalant use of Duster before he died. He had quickly become addicted to Duster and was unable to stop this new habit. Yes, Duster inhalant use is extremely addictive and the easy “access” of this inexpensive product has made it a drug of choice for many individuals. Do these people know they can die from Duster on the first inhale—no they do not. The loss of Brandon almost destroyed our family. The grief and guilt was overwhelming for all of us and to this day, I still cry every time I think about his kind heart and cheerful disposition.

After 7 years of dealing with personal grief and sporadic research into Duster inhalant abuse, I created the Families United Against Inhalant Abuse Foundation in February 2019. The past 6 years, I and have been researching inhalant use (specifically Duster) so that I could share this information on a website with individuals dealing with this horrible practice. I have spoken with many family members who have lost a loved one to Duster and together, we have tried to address this problem. Inhalant legislation like SB1032 is being put in place throughout the Country as a means of addressing the popular huffing use of Duster and the large number of Duster-related deaths taking place. All inhalant legislation needs to identify Dusters as a “behind the counter product” (like Sudafed), limit the number of cans bought during one transaction, require purchasers to provide identification, and a much greater effort must be made to make warnings on the can more thorough and prominent.

Duster manufacturers and retailers are fully aware of the inhalant use of Dusters and have known about this for decades. For purely financial reasons, they have chosen to ignore the issue and continue to allow these individuals to die. I appreciate the fact that this Legislative Committee is choosing to address the inhalant abuse of Dusters and I know that your action will reduce the number of loved ones lost due to the use of this dangerous and misunderstood product.

Thank you for listening.

*Claudia F. Dimit*

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