

fentvic.org: Sample letter to your 'elected' North Carolina Senator & Representative

1. Register to vote: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/registering/how-register>
2. Who are your elected officials? <https://www.ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>
3. You will find address and phone numbers for District and Capital Offices: call, email, write to both offices! Better yet, visit in person!

Senator _____ or Representative _____
North Carolina Legislature
District _____
Street Address _____
Room Number _____
City, NC ZIP _____

Dear Senator or Dear Representative last name _____ ,

I am writing you today as a concerned constituent in (city) and as a grieving parent. Illicit Fentanyl killed my (loved one: child/spouse/cousin/friend, etc). You cannot bring them back, but you can save lives by getting House Bill 250 (name of bill) and SB 189 (name of bill) out of the Rules Committee in both the House and Senate then onto the floor for a vote to hold drug dealers accountable for the deaths of innocent VICTIMS. You can also inform the Appropriations Committee of the dire need to better fund the NC Office of Chief Medical Examiner in NC DHHS to increase salaries of Chemists and Pathologists who determine fentanyl victims' cause of death with Toxicology Reports. Speeding up the Toxicology Reporting also enables law enforcement to arrest drug dealers faster, thereby saving lives.

HB 250 and SB 189 modify GS 14-18.4, the NC Death by Distribution law. The modifications in those Bills will hold drug dealers accountable for causing the death of a North Carolina resident, like my (name of deceased loved one). Did you know in (your county) fentanyl has killed # of residents (find this on number on fentvic.org website under Resources tab, scroll down, click on NC County Fentanyl Reports, scroll to find your county, click then see report for # of fentanyl victims) Here is the link:

<https://fentanylvictimsnetworknc.org/resources/what-is-fentanyl/fentanyl-reports-by-nc-county/>

- Over 13,671 North Carolina residents have been killed by illicit fentanyl in the past 9 years (NC OCME) and 8 more die each day! Unacceptable!
- Illicit Fentanyl Poisoning is the leading cause of death for 14–35-year-olds in North Carolina (CDC 2022). Illicit Fentanyl is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and soluble in liquids.
- It takes just 2ng/mL of fentanyl, similar in size to 5 grains of salt, to cause death.

The **INNOCENT NC FENTANYL VICTIMS** are toddlers who encounter fentanyl in their home, car or at babysitters. The **INNOCENT NC FENTANYL VICTIMS** are teenagers in middle and high school experimenting with pills they think are Xanax, Adderall, and Percocet when the pills are counterfeit pressed pills made with an illegal pill press. The pills look just like pharmaceutical grade pills, yet they contain undisclosed lethal fentanyl additives. One and Done! The teens are dead! 60% of counterfeit pills are deadly, that is 6 out of 10! (DEA 2022). The dealers selling these pills must be held accountable for causing death!

The **INNOCENT NC FENTANYL VICTIMS NC FENTANYL** are young adults and college students experimenting with pills and party drugs like cocaine. Illicit Fentanyl in powder form is mixed into cocaine without the person's consent or knowledge. One and Done! One line or one pill KILLS! HB 250 and SB 189 would hold accountable the person secretly selling or sharing disguised illicit fentanyl.

Another set of **INNOCENT NC FENTANYL VICTIMS** are those with Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) who are dependent on an illicit drug of choice. They know exactly how much they can take and survive. Yet someone secretly adds deadly illicit fentanyl to their drug of choice causing death. **It was NOT the VICTIM's choice to die!** Someone made that choice for them, and they should be held accountable.

In all 4 scenarios, the **INNOCENT NC FENTANYL VICTIMS** matter and so do their families. Unfortunately, many families do not know what killed their loved one until they receive a Toxicology Report from the NC OCME, provided the **VICTIM** received an autopsy. It has been reported only 31% of suspicious drug death victims receive an Autopsy and Toxicology Report IN 2021. What is even more heartbreaking for grieving families is they and law enforcement, must wait 6-12 months to receive these cause of death reports because NC OCME is understaffed and underpaid compared to other states! There are only 13 Chemists in the NC OCME to process ALL NC Toxicology Samples for ANYONE WHO DIES IN NC! This is UNACCEPTBLE!

My phone number is _____. You are my elected official who represents me in the North Carolina Legislature. I ask you to do just that, in the name of _____ (loved one's name) _____. Please call me to discuss this further.

Sincerely

Your Name