

Alex's Story is in support of Taylor's parents and Taylor's Law

Like us losing Alex, we still have no relief and no closure knowing there has been zero consequence and zero accountability for those who are responsible for lacing Alex's pills with Fentanyl.

Even if they were to be identified and apprehended, our current Oregon justice system does not provide true consequence. We lost our child. The worst charge they would receive is a minor drug charge. Because Alex's case is ongoing, it has now bypassed the short window for it to become a Federal case. Our only hope was for the Feds taking the case is that they could pursue deeper federal charges. Unfortunately, we are now stuck with Oregon law.

All we can do now is recognize that Alex and other victims, like Taylor, fall further victim to our current system. However, we can fight for other parents to not have to endure this horrible reality.

We can continue to fight in the names of our children.

Alex's Story is calling and emailing state reps, sharing our story and asking them to support Taylor's Law. We ask that you all do the same – and do it now.

Here are some current FAQs on Taylor's Law, shared by Taylor's dad:

Frequently Asked Questions About "Taylor's Law"

o A: Taylor's Law is a bill that creates an enhanced sentence for individuals who deal controlled substances that cause the death of another person. The law applies exclusively to drug dealers who sell controlled substances for consideration.

• Q: Why was "Taylor's Law" proposed?

o A: Taylor's Law has been proposed because no law exists in Oregon to charge or penalize a person for causing the death of another via the sale of controlled substances. The sale of narcotics, particularly opioids and fentanyl, is a widespread epidemic in our state that endangers and ends the lives of Oregonians every single day. Those who sell these substances experience little to no accountability for their role in the deaths of our community members.

• Q: Right now, what type of punishment could a person likely get if it's found their drugs caused someone's death?

o A: The current presumptive sentence for the delivery of controlled substances is Probation, even if the delivery results in the death of another.

• **Q: Are drug overdose deaths going up in Oregon?**

o A: In 2020, 472 Oregonians died from unintentional opioid overdoses. In 2021, that number rose to 745 deaths. Although fatality data for 2022 is not yet available, the number of overdose-related hospital and urgent care visits in 2022 far eclipsed previous years, showing 250-350 overdose visits per month in Oregon.

• **Q: So, "Taylor's Law" is going to charge drug offenders with murder?**

o A: No. Murder is defined in ORS 163.005 and carries a 25-year minimum sentence. Taylor's Law is a penalty enhancement for the crime of Delivery of Controlled Substances.

• **Q: What type of prison time could someone face if "Taylor's Law" is passed?**

o A: Taylor's Law imposes a mandatory sentence of 58 to 130 months in prison (approximately 5 to 10 years), depending on the offender's criminal history.

• **Q: How many other states have something similar to "Taylor's Law?"**

o A: . Currently, 25 states, including neighboring Washington, have drug-induced homicide laws on the books. "Taylors' Law" has been written to specifically ensure the safety of Oregonians. Our law only applies to drug dealers, not users, and specifically exempts a person from prosecution if they call for medical aid when another person is overdosing. Some states have much more aggressive overdose death laws than what "Taylor's Law" proposes.

• **Q: How many other states are considering something similar to "Taylor's Law" this year?**

o A: Multiple other states are currently reviewing similar laws.

• **Q: Without "Taylor's Law," what message is being sent to criminals and the crime victims?**

o A: Right now, Oregon law allows drug dealers to continue preying on those suffering from addiction without any significant consequences. The law fails to provide justice to those killed in a drug overdose by those who knowingly distribute lethal substances. The law also incentivizes individuals to call for help in the event of another's overdose under the Good Samaritan exemption.

• **Q: Won't this law just give the state power to prosecute people with a drug addiction?**

o A: No. Taylor's Law applies to drug dealers, not users. No one who supports "Taylor's Law" wants to target people who are drug affected and in the throes of addiction. This law is designed to hold accountable the people who make a living off of others' addiction by knowingly selling deadly narcotics.

• **Q: How is this law different than what was happening to people caught in the "war on drugs" in the past?**

o A: "Taylor's Law" is not intended to be a 'get tough' on addicts law. Its purpose is to hold upper level drug dealers accountable for knowingly selling and distributing drugs that result in death.

• **Q: How can a drug offender "profit" off someone's death?**

o A: When word gets out that someone has died because of using a certain dealer's drugs, law enforcement has found that the demand for that specific product swells, users seek it out and it's known on the street as "the good stuff." Drug dealers also increasingly sell counterfeit substances, passing cheap fentanyl-laced tablets off as legitimate pharmaceuticals for inflated prices, endangering unknowing users.

• **Q: Will this actually serve as a deterrent?**

o A: Yes. That is the expectation with "Taylor's Law." If passed, the courts, probation, treatment providers and community members can warn people that if they continue selling drugs, they could be exposing themselves to significant prison time.

• **Q: What happens if two drug-affected individuals are together and one of them overdoses?**

o A: Oregon law recognizes this scenario and provides immunity from certain drug-related offenses when a person calls for emergency medical assistance. This is known as a Good Samaritan Law. The person who calls 9-1-1 is not a target of Taylor's Law and would be immune from prosecution. Those involved in supplying drugs at the lower levels would be solicited to voluntarily identify the upper tier drug suppliers in an effort to hold the highest-level drug supplier responsible for the overdose death. The burden on the state remains proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

• **Q: Won't "Taylor's Law" cause our prisons to become overcrowded with drug offenders?**

o A: No. "Taylor's Law" was written narrowly so it can only be used once the state has proven that the person convicted provided the drug that resulted in the death of another.

• **Q: What happens if person passes someone else some heroin and that person dies, will that person be on the hook for 58 to 130 months in prison?**

o A: "Taylor's Law" is specific to those who profit financially by delivery or manufacture for consideration. Law enforcement and district attorneys recognize how complex drug operations are. In many cases, the person doing the actual hand-to-hand exchange, isn't the leader or upper level distributor of a drug trafficking organization. "Taylor's Law" targets the leaders of these organizations.

• **Q: Won't this law just be used to 'make an example' out of low-level drug dealers, the people who are struggling with addiction?**

o A: No. District attorneys have an ethical duty to make sure that criminal cases are appropriately charged. The law will require all district attorneys to review aggravating and mitigating factors when considering charges and when discussing potential pretrial resolutions.

• **Q: Aren't drug deaths preventable? Why should the criminal justice system even be involved?**

o A: Yes, they are. Ensuring people have access to treatment services that address their underlying addiction and then providing that person with proper support to reduce recidivism is best way to prevent a drug overdose death. Nevertheless, overdose deaths happen increasingly often to first time users and experimenters, especially when counterfeit pills are so readily available. In situations where a person continuously makes money off addicts and then contributes to their death, there must be accountability for that person.