

February 8, 2024

To: The House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 2676 - AN ACT concerning crimes, punishment and criminal procedure; relating to assisting suicide; adding additional conduct that constitutes such crime and providing criminal penalties therefor; amending K.S.A. 21 5407 and repealing the existing section.

I am here today in Support of House Bill 2676. We are lifelong Kansans who thought we raised our boys in a great big bubble.

William Dennis, our son, was your classic middle child. As a young boy, he was ornery. In high school, he played sports, he liked to ruck and do Navy Seal training. We had William evaluated a few times for mental health because he spent a lot of time alone. The professionals always told us William was ok. Not one time did William admit to being depressed or suicidal. When William died he was two semesters away from a nursing degree at Rockhurst School of Nursing.

Our psychologist, Dr. Moffitt told me he is 100% certain William would still be alive if it was not for two things, Covid and the website Sanctioned Suicide. William struggled during Covid. William had ADHD. Covid was tough on him. During Covid, William decided not to be a nurse and with our encouragement moved in with his brother at the University of Kansas.

It was Christmas break 2021 and he was home with us. He told us he had a full-time job over Christmas break at Walmart. On January 8, 2022, he walked down our stairs in his Walmart vest and left for work. Afterwards, I had this weird feeling so, I called my husband. Steve drove through the local Walmart parking lot and did not see William's car. I then called William and I said, "William are you lying about working at Walmart?" And he said, "yes mom. Mom, I'm coming home. I need to get something out of my room. Then I'm meeting some friends for lunch so we can watch a bit of the Chiefs' game and then I'll be back." I said, "ok." William came home. I said, "William, you don't need to lie to us if you don't want to work over your breaks. We don't care if you work." I then said, "I think you need a mental health evaluation." He looked at me and said, "you know what mom, I agree with you. I'll be back."

William did not return after the Chiefs' game, my husband called one of William's two close friends, Jonathan. Jonathan told us he had not seen William in a long time and William was always talking about Sanctioned Suicide. William had told us he had just spent New Years Eve with Jonathan. So, William had been lying to us. We call the Lenexa police immediately. The police speak to another friend Angel who says William was talking about Sanctioned Suicide, a gun and Sodium Nitrite.

Steve and I are in panic mode. We can't think straight. We drive all over the KC metro area, all night long, looking for a navy blue Honda Accord. The morning of January 9th about 9:30, I log into William's bank account and finally a charge has come through at a hotel just 3 miles from our house. The police go there and find William's body sitting on the floor next to the bed.

Dr. Reese Baxter, a retired doctor, read the autopsy report. He told us William left our house and immediately drove directly to the Lenexa Hotel, mixed up the Sodium Nitrite with water, drank it and died. William was found with a scale, a bottle of sodium nitrite, red solo cups from our pantry, a gun and hollow point bullets. The television was blaring. The water was running in the bathtub and in the sink. The freezer door was open. Towels were strategically placed on the bathroom floor in front of the toilet.

About a week and half earlier UPS delivered a package to me as Steve and I were leaving for the airport. It contained Sodium Nitrite and I handed it to William. I did not know the package contained Sodium Nitrite. It was from Lab Alley in Austin, TX. I said, "William what is this?" And, he said, "school supplies mom." And, the week of the funeral, Sodium Nitrite continued to show up in our mailbox.

My husband initially was able to access William's computer and the pictures on his Apple I Phone. We know William logged into Sanctioned Suicide at the beginning of December 2021. We also know William had instructions from Sanctioned Suicide telling him how to die by Sodium Nitrite. We shipped William's computer and Apple I phone to a computer expert in Chicago. The computer expert plugged William's computer into his equipment and discovered William placed bitlocker on his computer which has made it impossible for our expert to evaluate his computer. The phone evidence we could not recover from Apple. Sanctioned Suicide tells its users to destroy their technology before they die.

Dr. Chris Caulkins who is doing a psychological autopsy of William has spent time on Sanctioned Suicide and he says the site reminds him of the way terrorists are trained. Sanctioned Suicide calls suicide, "catching the bus." William caught the bus on January 9, 2022.

House Bill 2676 will save lives. William had an undiagnosed mental illness. Instead of coming to his parents for help, he went to Sanctioned Suicide where he was brainwashed by sociopaths. These sociopaths did not love William. They were not professionals such as doctors or psychologists. The sociopaths behind Sanctioned Suicide have one goal, as much death by suicide as possible and we as parents desperately need your help. Law enforcement needs to be able to identify the perpetrators and hold them accountable for their actions so that this website comes down. I beg you today to make that happen, please give us the tools to fight for our children's lives. Please protect our children.

Sincerely,

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