

## **Testimony of Jim Cruz on SB 464: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HAIR FOLLICLE DRUG TESTING BY CLINICAL LABORATORIES**

I'd like to thank Senator Carlo Leone for allowing me to speak today, I'd also like to thank Rev. Blaine Edele for attending today and making this possible.

We have to allow for nonconsensual parental drug Testing and hair follicle testing it is a critical tool to help parents get true assessment of drug use in our children.

I am here today to tell you about my son his name is Kyle Cruz and this is our story.

Like any proud father I cannot begin to put into words what joy and admiration I have for my son ,as a freshmen he played football, was one of the captains and quarterback, ran track and went on to be the captain of his team as a sophomore And played baseball and started for his school in centerfield. He was a 3.0 academic student and aspired to play sports in college. During the summer before his junior season we discussed transferring schools and eventually did so, a decision backed primarily out of his desire for sports.

During his first marking period we noticed a change in behavior and grades which we initially chalked up to growing pains and a new school a change of environment and possibly poor friend selection. Throughout the next several months and working closely with the school to try and improve his academic standing things continued to spiral downward.

Why and what was causing this was something we were puzzled by. We were just like your everyday family. The people next door, the average middle class going about our business with no big concerns.

As a 17 year old boy good looking ,charming ,friendly never one to get in trouble attend church, popular would be an understatement...what is causing these changes .

Suddenly things were different, arguing, non-compliant and irrational. after a few months of not understanding what or why this was happening we reached out to a couple of agencies to help us get back to normal and we put a plan in place to help him with getting back to being him again... During the summer we took our yearly summer vacation and returned home just in time for school to begin. In hopes of getting Kyle comfortable with school again he enrolled back in his original high school and we really believed we had turned the corner.

Needless to say that within 1 week of being back to school things had reverted back to where we were except this time we had a heighten sense of awareness and believed that drug use may be the cause of the behavior. Now mind you we are not naive parents who had our heads in the sand, but when I stand here and tell you there is a fine line between rebellious teenage behavior where a boy is testing how much I can push the envelope and typical experimenting teenagers go through well there is . Initially we chalked things up to oh boys will be boys type of thing then it was hey wait a minute something is going on, then it was like ok what the hell are you doing.

My wife and I were beside ourselves like hey come on let's get it together. Over the next couple of months we were confronted with a number of issues that finally bought us to the point of getting drug testing done. Prior to doing so we read and informed ourselves on what to look for, what would be most

effective and what test we would get done, Urine , blood or hair sample. We had already known by this time marijuana use was certain but there was something else going on.

We had confiscated his phone and found that kids in our area were swapping prescription pills like tic tacs selling them for what they could. We were made aware of a drug they call Molly (MDMA) as well as ecstasy., a ADHD drug called vivans and it seemed as though anything was possible . After discussing things over with my sons therapist and the fact that these drugs detection levels in urine could be anywhere between 12 -72 hours I made the decision to have an apptappointment made for a hair follicle drug test. I made the appt. online through a popular provider that dominates the industry in Ct. We let my son know that we were going to have him tested and went to our appt. When we arrived we were told that the hair follicle drug test couldn't be administered because we didn't have the paper work from his doctor .

So we went to the doctor's office and they had filled out the form and faxed it to the testing office. We arrived back to the test facility and were denied again and told it was the wrong requisition form even though it was signed by the doctor. We were then informed that they couldn't do this test because it wasn't employment related.

I spent the next several hours trying to get this type of test done to see if we could get this done. So why the hair follicle test ? With today synthetic drugs and prescription drugs being used many of the drugs are out of the system within days however a hair follicle test will yield results that have been in your system for 30 -90 days. Having a this done can give better solutions as to how to get appropriate Treatment.

Four days after our failed attempt I came home to find my son and he did not make it.