

Public Health Committee
March 2nd, 2021



Testimony in Support of HB-5583

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY INTERVENTION BY A POLICE OFFICER WHEN A PERSON SUFFERS AN OVERDOSE.

To allow a police officer to take a person into custody when the officer has reasonable cause to believe that such person is experiencing a drug overdose.

Co-Chairs Horn and Bradley; Vice Chairs Osten, Paolilo; Ranking Members Champagne and Green; and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Security Committee:

My name is Anthony Lowenstein, I'm part of a growing coalition of your constituents and we thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in support of HB-5583

A friend suggested I share my story with you so that you can better understand what our community is going through as you deliberate these critical proposals - so here goes:

My beautiful Son, Peter Miller Lowenstein lost his life on September 25th, 2020 due to a massive Fentanyl overdose. He was Born on March 7th 1992 and there can be no reconciliation. He was my only Child. His mother, Victoria deMar Lowenstein of Greenwich, CT had predeceased him 5 years ago after a long illness.

I am left with nothing. There is not a moment that goes by now that I cant stop crying. Peter fought and fought and fought against his addiction. He had times of incredible success, only to be messed up by the street level drugs. Every dealer of fentanyl-laced drugs who is caught with such should be charged with Homicide.

And now I sit by myself and wonder where my Child is. I have his ashes. My baby boy. Its not fair.

Please change the laws! Support Brian Cody's Law!!!!

Sincerely,

Anthony Lowenstein

Father of Peter Miller Lowenstein

I simply ask you to strongly consider taking the following action:

- Review and support HB-5583, as well as a package of similar proposals that our foundation refers to as Brian Cody's Law.*
- Understand that hundreds members affiliated with Brian Cody's Law are in support of this proposal, sponsored by State Representative Carol Hall, from the fifty-ninth assembly district.*
- Consider as well that Brian Cody's Law calls supports any proposal that provides enhanced support systems to help those struggling with opioid addiction, stricter penalties for suppliers of lethal*

overdoses, better oversight of tracking opioids and waste, and ending safe havens – such as ‘trap houses’ where numerous overdoses occur on a frequent basis.

- *Please also consider that Brian Cody's law opposes taking addicted people into ‘custody’, we should not continue the ‘lock our way out of this’ approach - but rather our organization suggests a 72 hour hold and urges the client be placement into a clinical setting with appropriate supports in place.*
- *Read up on the factors that are driving this effort forward on our website BrianCodysLaw.org and take action with us.*

In this last decade, 500,000 Americans lost their lives to opioid use disorder. In 2020 alone, right here in your state, overdose deaths hit historic levels. Again! Thousands of citizens here in Connecticut have died since our organization’s initial requests were filed. This simply cannot continue!

Do we have your support?