

**Testimony of Anne Fundner**  
**The Biden-Harris Border Crisis: Victim Perspectives**  
**Committee on the Judiciary**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**September 10, 2024**

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Anne Funder. I'm a wife and mother of four beautiful and amazing children. I am here to share a story that is far from uplifting. I come before you with a heart shattered by the devastating consequences of the Biden-Harris administration's open border policies.

I hope that by sharing my pain, others might be spared the same heartache. I want to tell you about my first-born son, Weston.

He was an extraordinary child. He was the best big brother, a sweet and loving son, and a joy to everyone who knew him. Our life was vibrant and full. We attended church every Sunday and the kids attended youth groups on Wednesdays. Weston thrived in private school, excelled in football and hockey, and loved to surf. He was a diligent student with a 3.5 GPA, he had a generous spirit who would give anyone the shirt off his back, and he lived to make people laugh. Weston had a heart of gold and a deep compassion for others feelings, always trying to stand up for others and for doing what was right.

I did everything I could to be the best mother I could be, always doing fun activities with Weston and my other children like taking them to museums, splash pads, parks, zoos, even Disney. I was the room mom, school ambassador, and a constant presence at his sports events. My husband and I were fully involved in our children's lives, planning fun trips, throwing fun birthday parties and venturing often on family outings, including hiking and camping trips.

Weston, like many teenagers, wanted to fit in. During his second semester of his freshman year of high school, at the early age of 15, in a moment of heavy peer pressure, he made a tragic mistake. He took something that a new "friend" gave to him. It wasn't what he was told it was, and instead, it only contained the lethal poison, "illicit fentanyl."

On February 27, 2022, our world was shattered. That morning, my husband found Weston lifeless in his room. Weston's whole future, all of our hopes and dreams for him, were stolen in an instant.

We did everything right!

Despite our best efforts—our conversations about the dangers of drugs, our constant support, and love for him—fentanyl claimed our son. It is a tragedy that could have been prevented if this administration had taken decisive action to protect Americans and illicit fentanyl flooding over our southern borders.

The Biden-Harris Administration could have addressed this crisis, but instead, they have exasperated it with their open border policies. Vice President Harris, appointed to manage the border situation, has failed to act meaningfully and only recently visited the border – and that was for political reasons. Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and every Democrat who supports these open

border policies are complicit in the deaths of 300,000 innocent Americans, including my son, Weston. Since this administration took office, 300,000 sets of parents have had to bury their children!

The number of fentanyl deaths has surged under the Biden-Harris administration. It is now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45 and is rapidly becoming the number one killer of teens, with 14 and under, being the fastest-growing demographic.

You would think President Biden, who knows the pain of losing a child and also has another child who has battled addiction, would prioritize this issue. Yet, he remains absent. Vice President Harris's March 23, 2021, tweet claimed she was appointed to address the border crisis and acknowledged the difficulty of the task, but one that was necessary. However, for over three years, she has done nothing to address the problem, only allowing it to worsen.

The Biden-Harris administration gave operational control over to the cartels when they opened the borders. While not addressing the cartels, this problem will continue to happen. Cartels are a multibillion dollar corporation being allowed to operate on American soil, dealing death to American children, unregulated and unpunished.

Open borders are a threat to our country's national security. I hold Joe Biden and Kamala Harris directly responsible for my son's death. Their open border policies have led to this devastating crisis.

To parents and leaders, how does fentanyl in youth happen?

When your child dies, the whole family dies. We've lost everything with Weston's death. We lost everything but each other. It has been a very hard road.

I wonder if Kamala Harris and Joe Biden know the facts about fentanyl at all, because if they did, maybe that would motivate them.

These drug dealers are well-trained. They are manipulative groomers and predators. They know that illicit fentanyl is 50 times more addictive than crack, so if your child tries it even once, withdrawal symptoms set in within 2 to 3 hours: cold sweats, fevers, bowel problems, intestinal issues, shakes, heart palpitations, overall body and bone aches, and many more unbearable responses. Then the groomer-illicit-drug-death-dealers step in and convince them that they can't tell their parents, they'd get in trouble, and anyone involved would too. They guilt and shame them. Your child is scared and tries to deal with a massive addiction, most adults can't handle, on their own at their very young age. They ease their withdrawal with more illicit doses of the poisonous deadly drug. This is where children die, dosing themselves with the direction of manipulative drug dealers who know exactly what to say. Now you have a child who never sought out an addiction, addicted to deadly poison. They get your child addicted, and your child may live a week, two weeks, three weeks... The longest I've heard so far is about five weeks. If your child doesn't die the first time, which many do, they will die soon after. It is not a matter of if they will die, but when.

If you, as a parent, don't know how to deal with fentanyl regarding your child, and without severe medical and recovery intervention, when you find out your child has tried it just once—because that's all it takes—your child will die. I can't tell you how many parents lost their children after being

told their child tried it because they didn't understand fentanyl. They didn't realize that a child admitting to trying a pain med wasn't actually the truth—that it was illicit fentanyl—and they didn't understand the importance of getting the child into a recovery facility immediately. Many die waiting for a bed to open up. Parents aren't being educated enough to know the dangers, what to look for, or what to do if they find out. The government certainly isn't teaching the parents and it's being left up to us as parents to crusade and go out and teach parents when the government should be putting education in place for the number one killer of young adults in this country. Where is the Covid response?

Most parents will think they can simply tell their kids not to use it again, not realizing how badly their bodies and mental state are struggling. Since their child's brain is now rewired to need fentanyl, after just one time trying it, they will seek it out behind their parents' backs to ease their discomfort and anguish. For \$7.50 they can go on an app like Snapchat or Instagram and have it delivered and put underneath the doormat at your front door. \$7.50. And while trying to ease their discomfort and ease out of an addiction, they never wanted, they die... they die. Parents are finding their children dead in their beds. This should be their safe space of comfortable beds that they lay their heads down at night and rest, and they're being murdered by illicit fentanyl, pushed by drug dealers, supported by the cartels coming over the open borders getting the precursor chemicals from China, who aren't shutting down the factories that are killing our children!

This is such an evil drug pushed by the most evil of people employed by the most evil of businesses, and our government and this administration knows all of this - or they should know all of this, but with their complete ignorance of this issue, I have my doubts- yet does zero to protect our children.

Few in this room can truly understand the depth of my pain. Unfortunately, TOO MANY families in America can. Over 300,000 Americans with this year's numbers not even included. My son, Weston, is gone, and his death was a direct consequence of decisions made by the Biden-Harris administration in power. The open borders that have been allowed to persist have led to tragedies like the one that shattered my family. I stand before you today to hold them and anyone who supports open borders accountable for the choices you/they have made.

My son did not have to die. His life was cut short because of political decisions—decisions that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, those in positions of authority, have made. They've allowed this to happen, and must acknowledge the gravity of that responsibility. Lives are being lost, families are being devastated, and it all stems from the choices Joe Biden and Kamal Harris and many in this room have endorsed.

Weston was a vibrant, loving child. He was cherished by many, including me. As his mother, I shared a bond with him that was pure and profound. The love between a mother and her firstborn is unparalleled, and I will never get that back. Weston was my everything.

He faced the typical challenges of adolescence, trying to fit in and navigate his way through high school. He was led astray by a counterfeit substance, which took his life. The source of this substance? It crossed our open borders. This is not just about a single decision but a systemic issue that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and everyone in this room has the power to address.

One day, our lives were filled with joy, and the next, they were in ruins. This tragedy could have been prevented. This administration has had the authority to close the borders and stop these dangerous illicit drugs from entering our country. Yet they have chosen not to, and as a result, people like my child, my 15-year-old son, Weston, are paying the ultimate price.

I urge you to look at my son's face, to remember his name—Weston. Understand that his death is not just a statistic but a consequence of complete inaction. I hope that this reality weighs heavily on your conscience. You need to recognize that this administration including many of your decisions have real-world consequences, and that people are dying because of them.

I implore you to take this to heart. Let this be a catalyst for change. Make the decisions that will prevent further tragedies and save lives. It is not enough to offer empty promises; we must forget politics and instead do what's right by acting with principle and integrity.

Thank you.

Anne Fundner

Weston's mom, Forever 15

