

Katie Byers

Written testimony-

I'm Katie O'Meara, Mom of Tommy Byers. Forever 34.

I'm writing in honor of my child Tommy Byers and the many other children, parents and loved ones who have lost their lives to DFE.

The loss of a child is so painful both emotionally and spiritually that I truly wonder if my own heart and spirit will ever heal. I'm learning I can help myself and other parents by honoring my child, and others, and exposing the insidious dangers of Difluoroethane.

You can't tell by looking at me, I look normal, but I have a terminal injury. That I'm shattered, sick in my mind, heart and soul. My world is tilted, nothing is as it was. Anyone in my position knows the lifelong tragic existence of losing a child. It's torture.

Tommy lost his life to DFE poison in a period of 3 weeks. We didn't know about this poison. Never heard of it. We were shocked and still are.

Tommy was kind, looking out for the underdog, bringing them into his group of friends. At his memorial many of his friends spoke to just that. Tommy reached out and included the outcast kids, who became part of the 'gang' and lifelong friends. Tommy was best man in all the weddings, best friends to all the guys. At Tommy's service, one after the other, Tommy's friends told stories of how Tommy enriched their life, and made them feel accepted and worthy. Tommy's friendship changed their life.

There will be no wedding, no Mother/ Son dance, no grandkids to babysit, no more trips, no watching Tommy excel in his career, build a home, grow old. I bury my face in his hoodies, wear his socks, hats and cologne. I trace Tommys handwriting, go thru the cedar chest where I save all the special memories, outfits, pictures, hockey trophies and accolades, awards, ribbons and medals. I grasp on to any and everything to make this not real. Tommy was a Sommelier and a Certified Wine Specialist. He was recruited to start new position as AGM at Manny's Steak House. Well known in his industry, Tom was sought after for his meticulous ways and depth of knowledge. Private parties in local sports figures and business peoples homes were a regular event.

Sweet, kind, funny, honest as the day was long. Tommy could keep a secret. Loyal and true. I aspire each and every day to be more like Tommy. I look up to him, as the fine person he was on Earth and fine Spirit in the Heavens now. I will never give up exposing this poison for what it is and killing our kids.

Tommy gave his all, stood up for what mattered and made a difference in the world. He believed in himself, determined in his goals. Tommy's eyes are a beautiful turquoise blue that would pierce into you when you spoke, he didn't miss a word.

In the 3 weeks of using this poison Tommy wasn't Tommy. Unsure of himself, weepy, self-depreciating and unsure. We had no idea what was wrong and we stayed very close.

My only child, my go to guy, My protector, my world and the love of my life.

This poison must be restricted and come out of the shadows. We need awareness and education. It's a secret that must be exposed.

Please let Tommy and me and all who Love him do this by making a change and speaking out. My Heart and Soul are shattered.

Please pass this Law today. Thank you for listening.