

Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeanna Degelder and I am currently the RN Manager at Sharehouse INC in Fargo, ND. I am writing to share my personal testimony with addiction and to advocate for continued funding for this devastating epidemic.

I was working as an ICU nurse when I had received a surgery. I had struggled with alcoholism from a young age but when I became dependent on Fentanyl my whole world shattered. At the time I was married with two small boys ages 4 and 6. One night while on the night shift I had come to my jumping off point and overdosed. I was then taken to an area hospital and given Narcan but sent back to jail too soon as it had worn off again. When I returned to the hospital my kidneys had shut down and I was eventually placed on kidney dialysis not knowing whether I would live or die. By the grace of God my kidney function returned. I was given a new lease on life. Addiction isn't easy but with the right resources and funding for residential treatment I am now 7.5 years sober and a great mom and wife. I regained my nursing license and am now working in the field of addiction and my passion deepens every day.

I am pleading for more funding for our mission as this disease takes several lives everyday across our country. Had I not had the excellent opportunity for intensive outpatient treatment I would not be writing this letter today as I would have probably had lost the battle as so many of the afflicted do.

Please take into consideration my testimony and continued mission to fight addiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jeanna Degelder', written in black ink.

Jeanna Degelder, RN