

Testimony of Lauri A. McHugh-Badura

“Border Security and America’s Heroin Epidemic: The Impact of the Trafficking and Abuse of Heroin and Prescription Opioids in Wisconsin”

April 15, 2016

Good Afternoon,

I'm consumed with grief as yet another overdose death in our small town community, of Oconomowoc, WI. This was no ordinary boy, this was someone dear to my own heart that I treated as my very own and loved.

This was someone that I chose to carry the casket at my late son, Archie Badura's funeral just under two years ago, of heroin.

For you see, yesterday I received the terrible news that Archie's childhood best friend John Paul G., had overdosed on heroin late Sunday afternoon. When I heard the news I buckled over was stunned with disbelief for a moment and silently prayed.

I immediately left my office and raced to the G. Family home with some food and no words. I simply cried and held John's sobbing mother and reopened the wounds that will never completely heal--for no parent will ever get over the loss of their child--ever! The room was filled with sorrow and disbelief. I finally wiped her tears and promised her I would fight for our boys, that they would not die in vain. To cling to her faith and our Lord--the boys knew Jesus and were now in a joyous place--free at last from the chains of addiction!

I assured her it was no one's fault as these drugs take over an addicts body and demand more--even though he was clean, and in recovery she thought doing so well, but that is when they are most vulnerable. This family was in total shock, was trying to see what they could have done differently ...if only...

When I stood to leave John's mother asked that I help gather pictures of her son so I have spent most of today organizing pictures for the upcoming funeral--I'm devastated, their family is forever shattered and so is our entire community.

When I got home several teens/early twenties, from all over (one even from CO) contacted me last night, as they each had heard the news to jucry and share their utter disbelief of John Paul's passing. Each one saying, "Please make it stop Mrs. Badura, I can't take this anymore!!" For your see, another close friend of theirs is now forever gone.

I promised each of them that I would continue to fight this battle and help implement changes in policy and legislation at county, state and at a national level.

Please take a good long look at these two beautiful boys pictured below--now lost to this epidemic. Two kindred souls tangled in the mess of addiction that lost their battle. I know we are not alone, WI and our entire nation is sadly plagued and paralyzed by the epidemic/addiction and the fear of this possibly creeping into to their own individual families.

This truly must stop. I can only hope and pray that after this hearing on April 15th, that we can implement some new measures for border control and tighten drugs from crossing in and help save lives and give hope back to all our nations precious families.

We are losing an entire generation, --that is why I'm so very driven and full of raw emotion to make a difference.

Thank you -- L.A.M.B.



My Archie on the left died May 15, 2014 at age 19, his best friend John Paul, pictured middle, died 4-4-2016 at age 22, Augie my surviving son on the right is 20, is devastated by yet another blow of such a deep loss due to this epidemic.