

March 3, 2025

United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Suite 2-500, South Lobby  
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Chair Reeves and Members of the US Sentencing Commission,

My name is Ann Portillo, and I write to you today to share my experience as the mother of Alexandria (Alex) Dobranich, my only child, who tragically lost her life to fentanyl poisoning in January of 2022. My goal is to provide insight into the devastating impact of fentanyl-related offenses and to advocate for sentencing guidelines that reflect the true harm these crimes inflict on families like mine.

Alex was a beautiful, kind, and compassionate soul. She was passionate about helping others, whether it was creating care bags for people experiencing homelessness, advocating for environmental causes, or trying to help shelter animals find their forever homes. She had a bright future ahead of her, but her life was cut short at just 22-years-old due to fentanyl. The person who provided my daughter with the lethal dose of fentanyl was recently sentenced to federal prison, and I am forever grateful to the people at the DEA and US District Attorney's office for working tirelessly to help my family feel a sense of closure.

I understand that the Commission is considering amendments regarding fentanyl that is marketed as another substance. Too many victims have unknowingly ingested this lethal drug, leading to an unprecedented crisis. Regardless of how fentanyl is distributed—whether misrepresented or not—the individuals who manufacture, distribute, and sell it are fueling a national epidemic. Their actions must carry significant consequences.

As a mother who has experienced the worst possible loss, I urge the Commission to strengthen sentencing guidelines for fentanyl-related offenses. Fentanyl is not just another category of narcotics—it is a weapon of mass destruction that is wiping out a generation of our youth. Every day, too many families like mine are shattered by the loss of a loved one. Stronger penalties for those who distribute fentanyl, regardless of how it is marketed, will serve as both a deterrent and a measure of justice for victims.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the work you are doing to address this crisis, and I am honored to contribute my voice to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Portillo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ann Portillo

Alexandria Dobranich

9/10/1999 – 1/3/2022

