

Dear Committee members,

I'm so sorry that I can't be present today because this is an issue that is incredibly personal and important to me and my family.

My sweet son, Holt Roberts, struggled desperately with drugs. It all started when he was in high school.

Holt was a really good athlete and loved playing all sorts of different sports. In fact sports were his real identity. When he was 15, he was injured in an ice hockey game and had to have surgery on his shoulder....twice. Sadly he had to give up all sports.

Holt became incredibly depressed and had a lot more times on his hands. That sweet boy of mine started using alcohol and marijuana to cope. He progressed into other drugs ending up becoming addicted to pills....to opioids.

We sent Holt to inpatient treatment when he was 17, and he did so well. After treatment he got his GED, and started a Construction Management program.

And then he relapsed.

On September 2, 2006, my husband, daughter and I were in Yellowstone and I got a call from my brother. It was about Holt. Holt died that day. He drowned due to drug intoxication. He was 19.

When your child dies, a piece of you dies. Your heart physically hurts. It forever changes your life.

We would have given anything...absolutely anything....to have found an early intervention drug program when this all started at 15!!! If we had, I genuinely believe Holt would be alive today!

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for working so diligently to make this happen for our teens in Colorado. – Deb Roberts