

Andy Winston Ayers
205 Ravenswood Lane
Martinsville, Virginia 24112

April 11, 2011

Rep. Johnathan Rhyne
NC House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street, Room 2208
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

RE: Senate Bill 33

Dear Representative Rhyne,

My name is Andy Ayers. I grew up in Eden and lived there many years. I moved to Martinsville, Virginia in 1997 but I continue to work in Eden, North Carolina as I have for over seventeen years.

In June of 1994, my wife and I were living in Eden, North Carolina and she was pregnant with our first child. My wife Tamara was 22 years old. On June 30, 1994 our son Chad was born. It was the happiest day of our lives.

On July 8, 1994, when Chad was 8 days old, Tamara died of a massive heart attack as a result of a prescription drug, Parlodel, made by Sandoz.

Tamara had been given Parlodel by her doctor to ease the discomfort of her milk coming in since she was not going to breastfeed. Parlodel was widely marketed by Sandoz for that purpose. The results were deadly.

After her death, I learned that Sandoz had many reports of high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack and death from the use of this medication. A month after Tamara's death, Sandoz withdrew Parlodel for milk suppression. Sandoz knew at the time Tamara was given the medication that more than 30 young mothers had already died, but sold it anyway. There was never an FDA determination of fraud or bribery; the company just didn't tell what it knew about the deadly dangers of the drug when it knew them. For Tamara, that news came too late.

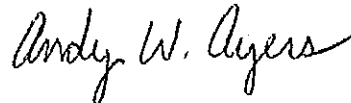
My son never had the chance to be rocked to sleep or kissed goodnight by his mother. She was not there to take him to his first day of school, or to bandage his knee when he scraped it. She won't be there when he gets married or has children of his own. He has grown up into a fine young man, but the absence of his mother is something no child should have to bear. I became a widower at a

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young age and had to raise a newborn on my own, but my losses pale in comparison to his.

Please do not grant immunity to drug companies for their wrongdoing to North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy W. Ayers".

Andy W. Ayers

cc: Members of Tort Reform Committee

