

Charter Township of Shelby

Richard H. Stathakis
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State Representative Peter Lund
374 Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Lund:

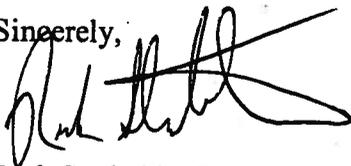
As you know, Herbal Incense Products, which consist of plant material laced with chemicals that have not been approved by the FDA for human consumption, are being used by our teens and posing a severe health risk. We here in Shelby Township, at the grass roots level, as well as our Township Board level, are working to end its availability at our Township stores.

However, among the problems with Shelby Township taking this issue on, instead of the State of Michigan, is that Shelby Township Ordinances and Policies only affect those vendors located in our community. We need State action now!

I urge the legislature, as well as the Governor's office, to fashion a law that would allow law enforcement to keep up with the constant reformulation of this synthetic marijuana. That is, a designated state official should have the authority to designate different and new versions of K-2 as illegal, so that the manufacturers and retailers cannot continue to conspire to produce a drug with such devastating effects on our youth.

We in Shelby Township will continue to do everything we can and we ask for you to join our efforts.

Sincerely,



Rick Stathakis, Supervisor
Charter Township of Shelby

CC: Board of Trustees
Rob S. Huth, Township Attorney

Richard H. Stathakis
Supervisor

Stanley T. Grot
Clerk

Paul Viar
Treasurer

Paula C. Filar
Trustee

Michael Flynn
Trustee

Lisa Manzella
Trustee

Douglas C. Wozniak
Trustee

On Friday, May 26, 2012, our son, Oliver Satchell Smith, died after smoking a form of synthetic Cannabis which he had purchased legally at a local gas station. He was 18 years old.

Oliver was a boy that carried a soulful light in his smile. Rooms, and more importantly, people lit up when he smiled. His smile was who he was. Oliver was our son. He knew he was loved – he was told every day he lived – and was never shy about giving love to those he knew. Oliver was Austin and Preston’s brother. Oliver was a nephew, cousin, dear friend, fellow scout, teammate, neighbor and acquaintance. We will remember Oliver forever as the son and brother we so proudly shared with the world for 18 years – and know that just because he left us doesn’t mean that he loves us an less.

It is critical that we shine a white hot spotlight on the fact that unregulated, highly addictive, deadly synthetic drugs, made solely for the purpose of being smoked, are being distributed and sold all across Michigan and several other states. Retailers who sell these products are knowingly profiting from pain, suffering and in far too many cases death.

On October 28, 1993 God gave us a beautiful boy. On May 25, 2012, a man-made drug took him from us. We applaud and fully support your efforts to ban these drugs from store shelves. As a result of your legislation, immeasurable suffering and senseless death can be avoided.

Sincere regards,

Larry, Mary Jo, Austin and Preston Smith