

I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the Reagan Day Dinner in Sawyer County about two weeks ago. From the amazing fall colors to some of the warmest people I have met, I enjoyed the journey four counties north of my home county. I planned to visit with new friends and share some information about myself and why I'm running for the U.S. Senate. I never thought this particular trip would have such a profound impact.

I met a couple who shared with me a story about a local young woman, a beautiful girl named Cassidy. She was well liked, very smart, and was destined for a bright and exciting future. Most girls this age are finishing college, planning a career, finding love, and all the things that young adulthood bring.

Tragically, her life was cut short by fentanyl, a dangerous drug that is terrorizing our nation in small towns and big cities, neighborhood by neighborhood, family by family. I listened as they spoke of knowing her family, providing handouts that show their heroic response to this dangerous drug that has ravaged their community, and so many others. I was shocked to learn that Sawyer County was second in Wisconsin for the toll that fentanyl brings (deaths per capita), behind only Milwaukee County.

I have since spoken with some Sawyer County residents, determined to learn more about this sorrowful chapter in their shared story, thinking about how this can affect any family, and gave pause when I thought of the devastation it could do to my own family. As a candidate, I do not yet have the ability to draft legislation to respond effectively. But I can call out the Biden Administration, and I can ask why Senator Baldwin has yet to fight for legislation that would secure our border and stop, or at least slow the flow of drugs into our communities.

I am using this platform to do just that. Senator Baldwin, I implore you to stop using our kids and families as pawns in this political gamesmanship. President Biden, you must secure our border now! Not talking about it, not some small piece of token legislation that makes it look like you're doing something. Kids are literally dying from inaction by your administration. Roughly 1,300 people in Wisconsin died last year from fentanyl, which would be nearly 60% of the City of Hayward in Sawyer County that I visited if all of those wiped out had lived in one community.

The opioid crisis and fentanyl specifically, along with so many dangerous drugs are pouring into the United States, and far too many people simply look the other way. Lives are lost, families are destroyed, and inaction is unacceptable. The drug cartels should be dealt with like the terrorists they are and nothing less. We must begin now. I am not running for the United States Senate because it is easy. I am running to defend and protect Americans, a solemn duty that sadly is now being overlooked, and instead, replaced with political games. It is past time for serious action and policies. Our time is now.



Stacey Klein
US Senate Candidate