

PE1651/NNNNNNNN

Cassandra Dawn Casey submission of 12 May 2018

Eighteen years ago my 12 year old son was prescribed Prozac (fluoxetine), for depression. Not long afterwards, he was found dead in the orchard next to our home. His death was initially determined to be a suicide, but later when an attorney examined his autopsy report, he called for the investigation to be re-opened as a possible homicide. My son had been with a friend on the day of his death, and his friend had also been prescribed an antidepressant. Three experts provided statements indicating that homicide should not have been ruled out, and that the initial investigation had been poorly done.

I am convinced that my son's death was the result of dangerous drugs prescribed to two adolescent boys whose parents were never provided with enough information to make a truly informed decision about whether the drugs were safe or not.

I testified before the FDA in Feb 2004, demanding that SSRIs be removed from the market, or at the very least - the strongest of warnings be placed on all SSRI drugs. The warnings finally came through later that year, but they came too late for my son.

These SSRI drugs are not safe for everyone. There is ample research that indicates a small percentage of people cannot properly metabolize some of these drugs, but when you consider that millions of people are taking these drugs, that "small percentage" translates into tens of thousands of people who are likely to experience adverse effects that far outweigh any benefit they might receive. It's time to stop supporting drug companies who lie and hide crucial evidence and to protect the citizens of your nation against harmful drugs!