

### *Sweatt's Statement*

We never thought we would be here, in Washington, talking about our grief. Our son Wade, was a brilliant young man with his whole life ahead of him.

Because he didn't care for the taste of coffee and wanted to avoid caffeinated and sugary soda, one day two summers ago he tried powdered caffeine. He immediately knew something was wrong. He found his wife and told her, "that powder is making me sick." Although the EMTs took only a few minutes to get to his house, it was already too late.

As we found out in the most awful way, while you can survive a heroine overdose, after an overdose on caffeine, there is nothing that medical professionals can do to save you. What followed was several long terrible days, in which Wade had cardiac arrest over and over again. We finally had to make the terrible decision to take him off life support, after it was clear that he was brain dead.

Wade was an engineer, who solved complicated technical problems every day and certainly never meant to do anything that would endanger his life. His only mistake was trusting that any substance sold to consumers could not possibly be as dangerous as we now know powdered caffeine truly is.

We miss him every day. We are here to call upon the FDA to take decisive, permanent steps – including a ban on pure powdered caffeine and other dangerous forms of caffeine – to protect other Americans from this kind of senseless and avoidable loss.

FDA agrees that these products are dangerous, as they said last fall. It makes no sense that they would then fail to take the steps to protect Americans. We know from a few minutes of searching on the Internet that these products are still being sold and can easily be bought. So why won't the FDA do its job?

We are so grateful that members of Congress are speaking out with us on this issue and hope they will continue to bring pressure to bear on FDA. We will also continue to bring this issue to light, in Wade's name and in the name of all the other bright young people who should not have to risk having their lives cut short by powdered caffeine.

