

TESTIMONY OF
JOEY BINKLEY
SON OF A MOTHER IN RECOVERY
FROM METHAMPHETAMINE ADDICTION

**COMMITTEE HEARING: THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE METHAMPHETAMINE
EPIDEMIC ON AMERICAS' CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
U.S. SENATE
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Hello, my name is Joseph Binkley, I am 18 years old and I am a high school senior in St. Louis, Missouri. For most of my life, my mother has been addicted to drugs and alcohol. In my early years I had no idea that my mother had anything wrong with her. I had no idea about drug addiction or the symptoms of it. It wasn't until the end of elementary school that I realized that something was wrong. My mother was acting very strange and she had to be placed into treatment multiple times for drug abuse. I was not able to be with her during those times in treatment. A short time afterwards she went to prison. From that moment, till about a year ago I completely stopped talking to my mother. I did not want anything to do with her, I felt betrayed. I lived with my father during my mother's incarceration. After getting out of prison my mother was still using drugs.

It wasn't until I learned that my youngest sister was about to be put up for adoption that I felt I had to do something about this issue. I joined my family in the family treatment program at Bridgeway. The family treatment program helped rebuild my family and heal my mother's issues. Throughout the experiences of mother's addiction and recovery, I could not leave my family because that would not have helped me. I feel that I may have done worse without their support.

Surprisingly to most, my at home issues have not affected me academically. Throughout the years, I have maintained a high grade point average. At this moment I have about a 3.8 gpa, perfect attendance, and am involved with multiple groups including: Leadership, DJ for school radio station, RCO, Teenage Health Consultants, Mu Alpha Theta, and Ritenour Big Brother/ Big Sisters. I was just promoted to a managerial position at my job, after less than a year there. I have already been accepted to Southeast Missouri State University with two scholarships. I plan to become a teacher of science, preferably physics.