



S.T.O.P. FENTANYL ACT OF 2021

The Support, Treatment, and Overdose Prevention of (S.T.O.P) Fentanyl Act of 2021 Introduced by Reps. Ann McLane Kuster and Lisa Blunt Rochester

Between 1999 and 2017, almost 400,000 individuals died from an overdose death involving opioids. To combat this public health emergency, Congress worked on a bipartisan basis to pass critical legislation, including the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery (CARA) Act of 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act, and the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act. As a result of efforts from Congress and state and local officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a drop in fatal drug overdoses for the first time in 28 years.

Despite this progress, from 2017 to 2018, fatalities involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl rose 10%, and according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, synthetic opioids increased drug overdose deaths 14-fold from 2012 to 2019. This stark rise calls for Congress to take additional measures in their ongoing response to the nation's overdose epidemic. With a comprehensive, public health response to the proliferation of synthetic opioids, we can provide a long-term solution to a constantly evolving epidemic. The STOP Fentanyl Act packages together policies that bolster surveillance and research, deploy resources to combat overdose deaths, connect individuals with treatment programs, and support ongoing prevention and public safety activities. Through this legislation, Congress can help communities address the rise in synthetic opioids without punitive measures that can lead to mass incarceration.

Specifically, the STOP Fentanyl Act would:

- **Expand Fentanyl Research and Education:** Enhances the public health surveillance of fentanyl related substances, improves efforts to better detect and share data on fentanyl, and pursues more effective Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment programs
- **Enhance Overdose Prevention:** Reports on evidence-based interventions to reduce overdose deaths, improves access to opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone, establishes Federal Good Samaritan immunity protections for individuals providing care to someone who is overdosing
- **Support Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs:** Removes barriers and expands access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), maintains enhanced telehealth access to opioid use disorder treatment, helps state and community-based organizations address the harms of drug misuse, and funds education for stakeholders on evidence-based treatment for opioid and fentanyl misuse
- **Provide Public Health Data and Training Support:** Expands access to public health trainings for law enforcement handling fentanyl-related substances, examines which countries are producing synthetic drugs, and supports public health surveillance at forensic laboratories

Supporting Organizations: Drug Policy Alliance, American Society of Addiction Medicine

To cosponsor, please reach out to Marisa Salemme (marisa.salemme@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Kuster.