

DAVID B. MCKINLEY, P.E.

1ST DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TEL: (202) 225-4172

FAX: (202) 225-7564

www.mckinley.house.gov

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November 29, 2021

The Honorable Anne Milgram
Administrator
United States Drug Enforcement Administration
600 Army Navy Dr, Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Milgram:

For the first time in American history drug overdose deaths reached a staggering 100,000 deaths in a one-year period. These numbers are indicative of a crisis that has largely been overlooked, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic but also the Biden Administration's lack of effective and deliberate control at the southern border.

Every day, Mexican drug cartels bring massive of pounds of Chinese-formulated fentanyl across our southern border. Due to a lack of security, these illegal immigrants then distribute deadly drugs into our communities. The average amount of fentanyl seized from 2018 through 2020 was 321 pounds a month. Through the first nine months of 2021, the monthly average is 830 pounds. In fiscal year 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 10,586 pounds of fentanyl at the southern border, more than double the amount seized in FY 2020¹.

A deadly dose of fentanyl is small enough to fit on the tip of a pencil. Two milligrams of the drug can be lethal to a person, depending on their tolerance level and body size. At that dosage, a pound of the drug could be enough to kill 227,000 people². At that rate the amount of fentanyl collected at the border in fiscal year 2021 is enough to kill the entire populations of China and India combined.

In 2018 Congress passed the STOP Act, which helped to reduce the flow of deadly fentanyl entering the United States through the Postal Service from China. Now, the southwest border crisis is creating opportunities for cartels and other criminal organizations to increase the flow of illicit drugs, including fentanyl, into the U.S. The border crisis is a major cause of the uncontrolled drug epidemic across the country, killing Americans and devastating families and communities. It is a preventable crisis with devastating consequences that the Biden Administration needs to take seriously.

¹ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>

² <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2021/09/27/dea-issues-public-safety-alert>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has been tasked with stifling the scourge of illicit drugs coming across the southern border. Please provide answers to the following questions as soon as possible.

1. What specific steps is the DEA taking to mitigate the flow of illicit drugs into this country?
2. How is the DEA partnering with other agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to address the surge of foreign made fentanyl entering this country?
3. How have the Biden Administration's border policies impacted DEA's ability to limit the flow of illegal drugs?
4. What steps are you taking to hold China and Mexico accountable for the influx of fentanyl at the southern border?

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Should you have any questions please reach out to Kirsten Wing (Kirsten.wing@mail.house.gov) or Allie Hildebrand (Allie.hildebrand@mail.house.gov) of my staff.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress