

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 1172

Expressing that fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2022

Mr. RYAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing that fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction.

Whereas, in 2021, 107,622 people in the United States died as a result of synthetic opioids, and synthetic opioids accounted for nearly 66 percent of all opioid-involved deaths;

Whereas data shows illicit fentanyl is now the number one cause of death among Americans between the ages of 18 and 45;

Whereas data shows in the past 2 years, deaths among teenage Americans due to illicit fentanyl has more than tripled;

Whereas data shows that in the past 2 years, fentanyl poisoning deaths have doubled as a whole in the United States, and deaths have more than doubled in 30 States;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is being mass-produced in China and shipped overseas to markets in Mexico, Canada, and the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protections seized 588 pounds of illicit fentanyl which has increased by 1,066 percent from fiscal year 2020;

Whereas, in 2021, the Drug Enforcement Administration confiscated 20,400,000 fake prescription pills containing fentanyl, mainly produced by Mexico, using chemicals sourced largely from China;

Whereas this amount of fentanyl seized is enough to provide a lethal dose to every single American;

Whereas 1 kilogram of fentanyl has the ability to kill 500,000 people;

Whereas approximately 666,666 counterfeit pills can be manufactured from 1 kilogram of pure fentanyl;

Whereas carfentanil is a derivative of fentanyl and is approximately 10,000 times more potent than morphine and 20 to 30 times that of fentanyl;

Whereas carfentanil was used as a chemical weapon in the Moscow theater hostage crisis to kill 150 Russians in 2002;

Whereas a 2022 report issued by the United States Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking stated “illicit synthetic opioids have the effect of a slow-motion weapon of mass destruction in pill form”;

Whereas, in 2019, the Department of Homeland Security considered designating fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction; and

Whereas section 2302 of title 50, United States Code, states that “[t]he term ‘weapon of mass destruction’ means any weapon or device that is intended, or has the capability, to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release, dissemination, or impact of—

“(1) toxic or poisonous chemicals or their precursors;

“(2) a disease organism; or

“(3) radiation or radioactivity.”: Now, therefore be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that it is the policy of the United States to—

2                   (1) recognize that—

3                           (A) the current approach to combating our  
4                           country’s drug crisis is not sufficient;

5                           (B) new and bold action is necessary to  
6                           save lives;

7                           (C) a weapon of mass destruction designa-  
8                           tion of illicit fentanyl by the Federal Govern-  
9                           ment would empower the Government to go  
10                           after international trafficking syndicates and  
11                           root out illicit manufacturers and traffickers to  
12

1 take action to stop fentanyl from reaching the  
2 border; and

3 (D) a weapon of mass destruction designa-  
4 tion of illicit fentanyl would not hinder the use  
5 of legal fentanyl or stop ongoing recovery, treat-  
6 ment, and harm-reduction efforts to assist those  
7 residents of the United States currently suf-  
8 fering from substance use disorder; and

9 (2) urge President Biden and the Department  
10 of Homeland Security to officially designate illicit  
11 fentanyl and analogues, including carfentanil, as a  
12 weapon of mass destruction.

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