



TOP AMERICA FIRST ACTIONS TO
***COMBAT DEADLY
FENTANYL***



Fentanyl Has Claimed Tens of Thousands of American Lives.

We are freely allowing illicit fentanyl, one of the deadliest threats our Nation has ever known, to cross over our Southern border on the backs of Mexican drug cartels and smugglers. The devastating effects of fentanyl on American communities is a direct failure of policymakers to get tough on China, secure the border, enact stricter penalties, and address the public health crisis. We must return to America First policies that will protect Americans from the scourge of deadly fentanyl.

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1 Secure the Border
Nearly all the fentanyl making its way into American communities comes across the southern border through smuggling by Mexican cartels. Policies that secure the border will shut off this access pipeline and allow federal and state law enforcement to surge resources to interdict fentanyl attempting to come through the ports of entry or the mail.

2 Impose Penalties on China for Sending Fentanyl Precursors to Mexican Cartels
China is the origin of nearly all fentanyl trafficked into the U.S. The precursor chemicals are shipped directly to the cartels, who package them with other illicit narcotics. The Trump Administration's policies held the Chinese government accountable for fentanyl in our country, but these efforts have been abandoned since the start of the Biden Administration. Imposing tariffs and sanctions is necessary to hold China accountable for its role in the fentanyl crisis.

3 Declare Fentanyl a "Public Health Emergency" and Consider Classifying it as a Weapon of Mass Destruction
The Trump Administration declared the opioid crisis a "public health emergency" (PHE) early on and procured \$6 billion to combat the opioid epidemic. The situation is now more dire, and an across-the-board approach to combating fentanyl is necessary. This should include renewing the PHE and possibly passing federal legislation classifying fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction.

4 Permanently Designate Fentanyl as a Schedule I Controlled Substance
In 2018, the Drug Enforcement Administration temporarily added fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act. Though this

heightened designation has been extended several times, it is necessary to permanently add fentanyl-related substances and their precursors to the Schedule I list. Schedule I is the most restrictive designation for federally regulated substances, and this preventive measure can stop the creation of new fentanyl-related substances, especially by Transnational Criminal Organizations.

5 Target the Fintech and Social Media Companies for the Sale/Distribution of Fentanyl on their Platforms
Drug trafficking on social media is not a new phenomenon; cartels and other criminals are taking advantage of online platforms to sell drugs and to recruit Americans to help them. Federal laws on enforcement action should be strengthened to take criminal cartels, their couriers, and dealers off the streets and off social media, where young people, especially, are most vulnerable.

6 Increase Criminal Penalties for Distributing Fentanyl
One reason fentanyl is killing so many Americans is that cartels do not fear the consequences of smuggling it into our communities and selling it to make money. States should institute harsher penalties for convictions for fentanyl distribution and related crimes. Local laws regarding drug enforcement protocols should mirror the federal ones, especially if fentanyl is designated as Schedule I.

7 Encourage More Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration Among Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Partners
Law enforcement task forces act as force multipliers, leveraging the unique advantages of each participating agency. Because the manufacturing and distribution of fentanyl cuts across so

many jurisdictions and operational areas of expertise, it is vital that robust task forces comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies operate in unison to disrupt the movement of fentanyl from our southern border and into the farthest reaches of our communities.

8 Increase Recruitment & Deployment of Qualified Border Patrol Personnel to Police the Border
Rampant illegal migration has stretched Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel and resources thin, compromising its statutory mission to protect our borders from the introduction of dangerous persons or objects. Ensuring adequate law enforcement personnel resources to meet the growing demands along the border will help mitigate the fallout from fentanyl entering the Nation.

9 Institute Fentanyl Educational Campaigns Nationwide
National and state-led education efforts built into school curricula can help lower the demand for drugs and ensure young people understand the risks of taking a counterfeit pill. Awareness campaigns should prioritize teaching children and adolescents about the danger of accidental fentanyl poisoning.

10 Make Life-Saving Reversal Agents Readily Available to the Public
A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel unanimously recommended approval for Narcan, an opioid reversal treatment, to be sold over the counter at pharmacies. Policymakers should also consider requiring opioid reversal treatments to be stocked in first aid kits in public spaces, such as retail spaces, on public transportation, and in schools.