



# UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, & URBAN AFFAIRS

## FEND Off Fentanyl Act

*Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence (FEND) Off Fentanyl Act*

The United States is facing the worst drug crisis in history. In [2021](#), nearly 107,000 Americans died from an overdose, and 65% of overdose deaths were caused by fentanyl. [Last year](#), the Drug Enforcement Administration seized over 379 million deadly doses of fentanyl - enough to supply a lethal dose to every American. Given the sharp increase in fentanyl-caused deaths, it is clear that a staggering amount of fentanyl is making its way into our country facilitated by the chemical suppliers in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and drug cartels in Mexico.

The *FEND Off Fentanyl Act* is a sanctions and anti-money laundering bill to help combat the country's fentanyl crisis by targeting opioid traffickers devastating America's communities. The bill will enhance current law so U.S. government agencies can more effectively disrupt illicit opioid supply chains and penalize those facilitating the trafficking of fentanyl. The bill also ensures that sanctions are imposed not only on the illicit drug trade, but also on the money laundering that makes it profitable.

Specifically, to disrupt the flow of illicit opioids into the United States, the *FEND Off Fentanyl Act* would:

- Declare that the international trafficking of fentanyl is a national emergency.
- Require the President to sanction transnational criminal organizations and drug cartels' key members engaged in international fentanyl trafficking.
- Enable the President to use proceeds of forfeited, sanctioned property of fentanyl traffickers to further law enforcement efforts.
- Enhance the ability to enforce sanctions violations thereby making it more likely that people who defy U.S. law will be caught and prosecuted.
- Require the administration to report to Congress on actions the U.S. government is taking to reduce the international trafficking of fentanyl and related opioids.
- Allow the Treasury Department to utilize special measures to combat fentanyl-related money laundering.
- Require the Treasury Department to prioritize fentanyl-related suspicious transactions and include descriptions of drug cartels' financing actions in Suspicious Activity Reports.