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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Expressing that fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RYAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing that fentanyl is a weapon of mass destruction.

Whereas, in 2019, 36,000 people in the United States died as a result of synthetic opioids, and synthetic opioids accounted for nearly 73 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 Rep-
2 resentatives that it is the policy of the United States to—

3 (1) recognize that—

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

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

8 (C) a weapon of mass destruction designa-
9 tion of illicit fentanyl by the Federal Govern-
10 ment would empower the Government to root
11 out illicit manufacturers and traffickers to take
12 action to stop fentanyl from reaching the bor-
13 der; and

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

7 (2) urge President Biden and the Department
8 of Homeland Security to officially designate illicit
9 fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction.