

## Bipartisan Committee Leaders Press ONDCP for Answers on Federal Response to Fentanyl Epidemic

Bipartisan Energy and Commerce Committee leaders sent a [letter](#) to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on Thursday, requesting their assistance in questioning all federal agencies within their jurisdiction about their plans to address the urgent public health threat of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid.

The request builds off the committee's past heroin and opioid investigations, which served as a catalyst for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (now law). The letter was sent by full committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), full committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Tim Murphy (R-PA), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO).

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has determined that fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine and five to 100 times more potent than heroin. Overdoses and deaths associated with the synthetic opioid have been reported across the country at alarming rates.

"Fentanyl is an urgent public health threat. Overdoses and deaths associated with fentanyl are spreading across the country. Nonetheless, it remains unclear if key law enforcement and public health agencies have developed a strategic plan aimed at the fentanyl threat, particularly one that disrupts the illicit supply of fentanyl coming into the U.S.," **wrote Walden, Pallone, Murphy, and DeGette.**

Click [HERE](#) to read a copy of the letter.