

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capital  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
2143 Rayburn House Office Building

November 6, 2023

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jefferies, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write today to urge you to prioritize President Biden's \$2.75 billion in additional funding to counter fentanyl in any government funding package that is brought to the floor. An American loses their life from drug overdose every five minutes – a senseless tragedy. With more than 83,000 Americans dying from opioid overdoses last year, the synthetic drug crisis threatening our nation must be our top priority<sup>1</sup>.

President Biden's supplemental funding requests would expand life-saving services to counter two pervasive problems: drug trafficking and substance use disorder. To combat drug trafficking, his \$1.2 billion request would enable the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to hire more Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and deploy non-intrusive inspection systems at our ports of entry. It's prudent that rollout of these dollars should be met with Congressional oversight to ensure timeliness of deployment. Increased resources dedicated to disrupting the flow of fentanyl over the border cannot wait – each day, transnational criminal organizations and other bad actors are exploiting our border crossing systems to profit off of American death. This threat stresses law enforcement and emergency services in every part of the country, an ever-present risk to public safety.

To address this crisis, we must not only restrict the supply of illicit substances but also address demand by providing treatment to those struggling with a substance use disorder. Across the country, 40.3 million people struggle with this disease with lasting impacts on our families, communities, and economy<sup>2</sup>. The \$1.55 billion in supplemental funding would enable States, Territories, and Tribal Nationals to simultaneously strengthen access to substance use treatment and expand recovery support services. Through these additional funds, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) should provide oversight into the effectiveness of interventions and help coordinate any state opioid spending to reduce unnecessary duplication.

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<sup>1</sup> [Provisional Data Shows U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Top 100,000 in 2022, CDC](#)

<sup>2</sup> [FACT SHEET: Addressing Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic, the White House](#)


This epidemic is dire but preventable. Congress must unify and fund these essential services to reverse and counteract fentanyl overdoses and crime. This funding would build healthier, safer, and more resilient communities. Further, Congress and the Administration must work together to ensure funding is used effectively and resources are deployed swiftly to the southern border. Only a multi-pronged approach that stops the flow of fentanyl into the United States and supports individuals in recovery will address this crisis.

We urge you to prioritize this funding for the good of our nation, our communities, and most importantly – our people. Congress must not overlook this threat – American lives hang in the balance.

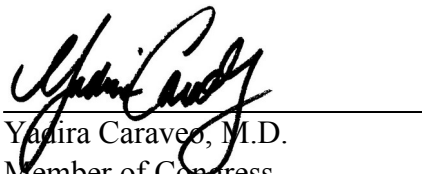
Sincerely,



Brittany Petterson  
Member of Congress



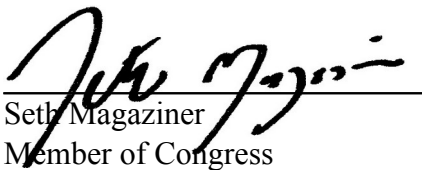
David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



Yadira Caraveo, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

*Angie Craig*

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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress

*Ann McLane Kuster*

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Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress