

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 323

Supporting the goals and ideals of Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day
on August 21, 2023.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Fentanyl Prevention and
Awareness Day on August 21, 2023.

Whereas families in the United States affected by the use of
illicit fentanyl use Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness
Day to—

(1) preserve the memory of the individuals lost to
fentanyl overdose or poisoning who were unsuspecting
victims, experimenting with the drug, or suffering from
substance use disorder;

(2) acknowledge the devastation caused by the use
of illicit fentanyl and other dangerous drugs; and

(3) share awareness about the dangers of the use of
illicit fentanyl to prevent a public health crisis, self-harm,
addiction, and death;

Whereas Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day is celebrated each year on August 21 by State governors and attorneys general, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, parent-teacher associations, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”), and hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States;

Whereas fentanyl is a highly addictive synthetic opioid that is 100 times more potent than morphine;

Whereas, according to the DEA, illicit fentanyl is—

- (1) manufactured with other illicit drugs to increase potency;
- (2) sold as a powder or mixed with other illicit drugs; and
- (3) pressed into counterfeit pills to look like legitimate pharmaceutical drugs;

Whereas the fentanyl crisis in the United States is a serious public safety threat;

Whereas the illicit fentanyl poisoning rate in 2022 was the highest in the history of the United States, and fentanyl poisoning was the number one cause of death among citizens of the United States aged 18 to 45;

Whereas synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl, are devastating communities and families at an unprecedented rate, claiming $\frac{2}{3}$ of the more than 107,000 lives lost to drug overdoses in 2021;

Whereas drug-related deaths throughout the United States reached a new record in 2022, with at least 109,680 deaths;

Whereas individuals increasingly use pills or other drugs without knowing those substances contain fentanyl;

Whereas, in 2021, the DEA issued the first public safety alert by the agency in more than 6 years to raise awareness of a significant nationwide surge in counterfeit pills;

Whereas the rate of fentanyl-related mass poisonings (events including 3 or more poisonings close in time at the same location) was rising as of 2022, according to the DEA;

Whereas families in the United States affected by the use of illicit fentanyl have gained momentum in educating the public about the dangers of the use of illicit fentanyl and other drugs and actively engage with Federal agencies to promote such education and awareness;

Whereas families in the United States affected by the use of illicit fentanyl seek to raise awareness of that issue and prevent fentanyl-related deaths, and those families join together in the effort to save lives on Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate a commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles on Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Fentanyl

3 Prevention and Awareness Day;

1 (2) encourages the people of the United States
2 to promote prevention of the use of fentanyl and to
3 educate young people on Fentanyl Prevention and
4 Awareness Day, symbolizing a commitment to
5 healthy, drug-free lifestyles;

6 (3) encourages children, teenagers, and other
7 individuals to choose to live drug-free lives; and

8 (4) encourages the people of the United States
9 to—

10 (A) promote drug prevention and the cre-
11 ation of drug-free communities; and

12 (B) participate in drug prevention activi-
13 ties to show support for healthy, productive,
14 and drug-free lifestyles.

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