

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 628

To suspend the entry of covered aliens in response to the fentanyl public health crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. MORENO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To suspend the entry of covered aliens in response to the fentanyl public health crisis.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Alan T. Shao II
5 Fentanyl Public Health Emergency and Overdose Preven-
6 tion Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) More than 100,000 Americans died from
2 drug overdoses during 2023, with the majority of
3 such deaths caused by fentanyl.

4 (2) Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug
5 that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100
6 times more potent than morphine.

7 (3) Fentanyl is involved in more deaths of
8 Americans younger than 50 years of age than any
9 other cause of death, including heart disease, cancer,
10 homicide, suicide, and other accidents.

11 (4) In 2023, the United States Drug Enforce-
12 ment Agency seized more than 80,000,000 fentanyl-
13 laced pills and approximately 12,000 pounds of
14 fentanyl powder, which is enough fentanyl to kill
15 every American.

16 (5) Just 2 milligrams of fentanyl is considered
17 a lethal dose.

18 (6) The smuggling of fentanyl into the United
19 States constitutes a major public health crisis.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) COVERED ALIEN.—The term “covered
23 alien” means any person who—

24 (A) is attempting to unlawfully enter the
25 United States from Canada or from Mexico;

1 (B) does not possess the required travel
2 documents to be admitted to the United States;
3 and

4 (C) is being held at a point of entry or a
5 Border Patrol station to facilitate immigration
6 processing.

7 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

9 **SEC. 4. SUSPENDING THE INTRODUCTION OF COVERED**
10 **ALIENS INTO THE UNITED STATES DUE TO**
11 **THE FENTANYL PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the en-
13 actment of this Act, the admittance of covered aliens into
14 the United States is suspended to protect the public
15 health.

16 (b) RELOCATION.—Covered aliens who attempt to
17 enter the United States, either through a point of entry
18 or between points of entry, while the suspension described
19 in subsection (a) remains in place shall be returned to
20 their country of origin or to the country from which they
21 entered the United States as rapidly as possible to lower
22 the risk of such aliens introducing, selling, trafficking, or
23 otherwise illicitly disseminating or promoting the dissemi-
24 nation of deadly fentanyl into the United States.

1 (c) REPATRIATION FLIGHTS.—The Secretary is au-
2 thorized to transport covered aliens being relocated pursu-
3 ant to subsection (b) on scheduled repatriation flights, on
4 a space available basis.

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