

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

June 22, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining the 2022 National Drug Control Strategy and the Federal Response to the Overdose Crisis”

On **Monday, June 27, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. ET, on the Zoom video platform**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a remote hearing to examine the federal government’s response to the overdose and addiction crisis, including the Biden-Harris Administration’s 2022 National Drug Control Strategy.

I. BACKGROUND

Since 1999, approximately 1 million people in the United States have died of a drug overdose.¹ According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 93,000 people had fatal overdoses in 2020, a 30% increase over the prior year.² In 2021, fatal drug overdoses continued to increase, to more than 107,000 deaths.³

On April 21, 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration’s Office of National Drug Control Policy released its 2022 National Drug Control Strategy (Strategy), in accordance with Section 706 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998, as amended.⁴

¹ National Institute on Drug Abuse, *Overdose Death Rates* (Jan. 20, 2022) (online at <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>).

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Up 30% in 2020* (July 14, 2022) (online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20210714.htm).

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *U.S. Overdose Deaths in 2021 Increased Half as Much as in 2020 – But Are Still Up 15%* (May 11, 2022) (online at www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2022/202205.htm).

⁴ The White House, *FACT SHEET: White House Releases 2022 National Drug Control Strategy that Outlines Comprehensive Path Forward to Address Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic* (Apr. 21, 2022) (online at www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/21/fact-sheet-white-house-releases-2022-national-drug-control-strategy-that-outlines-comprehensive-path-forward-to-address-addiction-and-the-overdose-epidemic/); 21 U.S.C. § 1705.

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of the hearing is to evaluate the Strategy and assess the federal government's progress in preventing overdoses, expanding access to treatment for substance use disorder, and disrupting the supply of dangerous substances into the United States.

III. WITNESS

Dr. Rahul Gupta

Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
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