

## **INTRO**

- Thank you, Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia, for giving me the opportunity to speak here today, and thank you for all the hard work you do.
- I represent a very rural, Appalachian district in southern Ohio.
- And I'm here today to talk about two issues that directly impact many throughout rural America: combating the fentanyl epidemic and out-of-control federal regulations.

## **Fentanyl/HIDTA**

- As you know, fentanyl is an extremely deadly substance that affects all our districts.
- While I applaud the Trump Administration's diligent work to secure our southern border, Congress needs to pass legislation to protect our communities from illicit fentanyl that has already entered our country.
- Thankfully, there are programs such as the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program, or HIDTA (Hi-Duh), that assist federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in critical drug-trafficking regions across the United States.
- With 33 HIDTA Programs spanning across all 50 states, this program works with communities to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations, saving countless lives across the United States.
- Last year alone, thanks to the hard work of our law enforcement officers and the training provided, the HIDTA Program seized over 7,000 kilograms of fentanyl – that amount of fentanyl could potentially kill 3.5 billion people according to the DEA.
- The district I represent has been ground zero for the fentanyl epidemic, and this needs to change.

- With two HIDTA-designated counties in my district, I was proud to introduce the *Fight Fentanyl Act* to reauthorize and provide additional resources to the HIDTA Program.
- This bill would not only better equip our law enforcement officers with the tools they need to seize more illicit drugs, but it will also help keep our country and communities safe.
- Additionally, my bill also allows the Attorney General to allocate additional resources to investigate and take drug traffickers and dealers to trial to remove these destructive criminals from our communities.
- I want to thank our law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day for their work to combat fentanyl, and our HIDTA officers for the training and the work they do to keep our communities safe.
- I also want to thank Congressman Levin for co-leading the *Fight Fentanyl Act* with me, and I would love to work with you, Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member to provide our HIDTA Programs and local law enforcement officers with the tools they need to keep our communities safe.
- I appreciate your consideration.

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## **Regulation Decimation**

- One of the other issues I hear about from people across southern Ohio is the overwhelming amount of federal regulations that hurt businesses and farmers, and increase the cost of living for all of us.
- In my district, ridiculous regulations led to the closing of several critical businesses, including the coal plants, which provided affordable electricity to the entire region.
- As a small business owner myself, I know first-hand the impact that burdensome regulations can have on an economy.
- That is exactly why the first bill I introduced in Congress was the *Regulation Decimation Act*.
- This bill, which codifies an Executive Order from President Trump, would simply require agencies to find ten regulations to repeal for every new one promulgated.
- The harsh reality is that no one even knows how many federal regulations there are.
- The best guess we have is to go off the number of pages in the Code of Federal Regulations, which had roughly 23,000 pages in 1960 but is now up to nearly 200,000...a 769 percent increase.
- This is largely reflective of Congress slowly giving away all of its authority to unelected bureaucrats within federal agencies.
- And we saw the impact of this during the Biden Administration with their de facto electric vehicle mandate, and the WOTUS rule, which sought to punish nearly every business and farmer in the country.
- This needs to change.
- We cannot continue allowing such important decisions to be made by those who can never be held accountable.

- I applaud President Trump and his 10-to-1 deregulatory agenda, and I'm happy the Supreme Court struck down Chevron deference, but Congress needs to act.
- Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to collaborate with you on the best ways to cut regulations and restore responsibility to Congress to fulfill its Constitutionally mandated duties.
- I appreciate you letting me share my perspective today, and I'm looking forward to working with you on my bill and this issue.
- Thank you, and I yield back.