

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1001**

**Testimony**  
**Committee on House Administration**  
**Member Day: Committee on House Administration**  
**March 04, 2025**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to testify today at this Member Day hearing so that I can discuss some very important matters that I hope the Committee will prioritize in this 119th Congress.

Under the previous Administration, the United States experienced a historic rise of drug overdoses and poisonings, driven by an increased supply of synthetic opioids, such as illicit fentanyl and its analogs. Last fiscal year, Customs and Border Protection confiscated over 21,000 pounds of fentanyl at our borders. That is enough fentanyl to kill every American several times over. And that's just the drugs we know about.

Illicit fentanyl overdoses are now the number one cause of death among adults 18 to 45. However, I believe we have a great opportunity to make significant and sustainable progress in combating this crisis.

In 2023, I wrote a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) calling for naloxone, an overdose reversal drug, to be available without a prescription. Thankfully, the FDA approved the first over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray on March 9, 2023, and the product is now available. Naloxone nasal spray is a safe, easy to use treatment that is proven to reduce medical emergencies, drug overdoses, and deaths by up to 46 percent.

As the fentanyl crisis continues to devastate our country, there is no moral, medical, or safety-related reason for these life-saving overdose reversal agents to remain locked under prescription regulations. We must continue to expand the availability of overdose reversal treatments like naloxone, removing the stigma associated with carrying it and making it as common as a defibrillator.

That is why I sent a letter to the Committee on House Administration, the Office of Attending Physician, and the Architect of the Capitol urging them to stock FDA-approved opioid overdose reversal agents, such as naloxone, in House of Representative Office Buildings – including in the district.

In Washington, D.C., the drug overdose death rate is 64.3 per 100,000 people – one of the highest rates in the nation. It's critical that the Committee on House Administration lead by example and stock opioid overdose reversal agents in every location where there is a defibrillator

throughout the House office buildings – including in the district. There is no moral, medical, or safety-related reason for these life-saving overdose reversal agents to not be widely accessible to Members of Congress and staff. If used quickly enough, naloxone can reverse the effects of fentanyl poisoning and can be the difference between life or death. Studies show that increasing access to these treatments can reduce mortality rates in communities by up to 46 percent.

With your support, we can demonstrate our commitment to addressing the fentanyl crisis that is plaguing our country and save lives by increasing access to overdose reversal agents and making it as common as a defibrillator. I keep naloxone on me, and I recommend that everyone has this, because you never know when you could be able to save a life.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to ensure FDA-approved opioid overdose reversal agents, such as naloxone, is available and accessible in the House of Representative Office Buildings.

Sincerely,



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Earl L. “Buddy” Carter  
Member of Congress