

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Assistant Secretary Brownfield by  
Representative Tim Murphy (#1)  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
March 21, 2017**

**Question:**

Your written testimony notes that China has agreed to domestically control carfentanil. However, your testimony also states that the U.S. is requesting international control of carfentanil. What is the additional benefit of having carfentanil subject to international control in addition to Chinese government control?

**Answer:**

Reducing the availability of carfentanil is a top priority in combating the opioid epidemic in the United States. Adding it to the international control regime, under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, will obligate all 193 State Parties to the Convention to institute legislative and administrative measures to monitor and regulate its manufacture and distribution, and to cooperate with other member states to execute the provisions of the Convention. In response to U.S. requests made through the standing bilateral Joint Liaison Group (JLG) on Law Enforcement, since 2015 China has taken action to control domestically more than 120 synthetic drugs. Recently, in March 2017, China announced controls on carfentanil and three other prominent fentanyl analogues.

China's decision to domestically control carfentanil is a welcome measure that should contribute towards preventing its use for illicit purposes.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Assistant Secretary Brownfield by  
Representative Tim Murphy (#2)  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
March 21, 2017**

**Question:**

Very recently, there was a Global Smart Update from the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, centered on fentanyl and its analogues. Are you familiar with this document?

- a. If so, what significant findings does it provide for the U.S. regarding fentanyl?

**Answer:**

With support from the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting, and Trends (SMART) Programme publishes bi-annual updates examining patterns and trends of the global synthetic drug situation. The most recent Global SMART Update, *Fentanyl and its analogues – 50 years on*, was published in March 2017 and is available on UNODC's website:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/global-smart-update-2017-vol-17.html>.

The March 2017 publication provides a good synopsis of the origins, complexity and controls of fentanyl and its analogues in the opioid market. The report cites

an illicit manufacturing method for fentanyl using the two precursor chemicals, ANPP and NPP. At the United States behest, the 53 members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) voted unanimously, at the March 2017 meeting, to control these two chemicals. The report also highlights open source press materials examining the prevalence of illicit fentanyl analogue use globally.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Assistant Secretary Brownfield by  
Representative Ryan Costello (#1)  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
March 21, 2017**

**Question:**

Currently, over 340 million packages come into the United States through the global postal system, via the United States Postal Service, with advanced electronic manifest data. Do you agree that this is a major security loophole, and a problem that needs to be fixed?

- a. Would having this data better enable CBP and other agencies to detect and interdict dangerous and deadly drugs?

**Answer:**

Trafficking controlled substances across state lines and through the U.S. Postal Service are serious offenses. The United States government has long recognized that Advance Electronic Information for packages and small packets arriving by international mail is valuable for a variety of customs, law enforcement and security purposes, although the Department of State would defer to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on its specific utility for interdicting synthetic opioids and other dangerous drugs.

- b. Do you believe foreign posts, like China Post, should be compelled to provide advanced electronic manifest data to the USPS, so the USPS can provide that data to CBP?

**Answer:**

The Department of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs is actively advancing U.S. efforts through the Universal Postal Union (UPU) to promote global electronic exchange of customs data for mail items containing goods. The United States is working with other UPU member countries to secure final approval for a messaging standard for this data and to build capacity to capture and transmit it. The UPU's 192 members agreed to prioritize this U.S.-led objective.

Although postal services worldwide agree on the need to exchange this data, few, if any, foreign postal operators have the ability, resources, or training to exchange item-level data with USPS for their entire postal volume, as opposed to shipments from major commercial mailers.

Since international mail exchange takes place on the basis of reciprocity within the context of a global agreement, unilateral actions could end the ability of Americans to send or receive international mail. Consequently, it is critical that any requirements the U.S. sought to impose on foreign postal operators be

carefully designed to address U.S. law enforcement objectives and the capacity of affected countries to comply.