

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

April 11, 2017

Mr. Kemp Chester
Acting Deputy Director
Office of National Drug Control Policy
750 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Chester:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Fentanyl: The Next Wave of the Opioid Crisis."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Elena Brennan, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, and e-mailed in Word format to Elena.Brennan@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Tim Murphy

1. What additional burdens is the fentanyl epidemic putting on society, the healthcare system, the criminal justice system, the emergency response system, and federal, state, and local budgets?
2. Last fall, the Canadian press reported that a type of test strip to indicate the presence of fentanyl was being made widely available for a low price (\$5 Canadian). These kits or test strips were first announced in Vancouver, British Columbia, but later reports have identified them to pharmacies in Winnipeg, Manitoba (the middle of Canada). Yet there appears to be little if any public reaction, response, or similar kits detected or reported in the US. Why is that?
3. Locally, Governor Hogan of Maryland announced a new initiative creating an Opioid Operational Command Center to aid in coordination of resources. How prevalent are such initiatives, and where would they be most needed?
 - a. Where are you getting the best cooperation from states?
 - b. What advances have these states reported that could/would assist nationwide efforts?
 - c. Where would such coordination need improvements?
 - d. Would we be better off with state-by-state approach?
4. In Maryland, among other states, there are growing groups of people who are organized regarding Heroin or Opioid Awareness to help addicts and the citizenry to recognize the threat of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced heroin. What can be learned from their efforts?
 - a. How can they be best supported by networks of local, state, and federal assistance?
5. We are aware that, on the street, when “word gets out” about a given batch of drugs being potentially deadly, it can conversely attract more customers searching for a greater high. What sources or uses of communication and education are most effective on such a level to provide adequate warnings about lethal dosage?
6. Is there any reason to believe that drug dealers are intentionally selling fatal doses of fentanyl on occasion to get publicity to users about the potency of their drug products?
 - a. Similarly, due to the purity of fentanyl, is there any evidence that suggests drug dealers are intentionally selling products that contain fentanyl to intensify an addict’s addiction?

The Honorable Ryan Costello

1. How would you describe the public health and safety threat of illicitly-produced fentanyl to communities throughout the nation?
2. Why is the East Coast heroin market more susceptible to the risk of fentanyl overdoses?
3. What is the appeal of adding fentanyl if it is effectively killing users? Is it less expensive to produce? Does it—in non-lethal quantities—produce a different high?