

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Majority (202) 225-2927
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September 9, 2019

Mr. Gary Barksdale
Chief Postal Inspector
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Mr. Barksdale:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at the hearing entitled "Oversight of Federal Efforts to Combat the Spread of Illicit Fentanyl." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, members are permitted to submit additional questions to the witnesses for their responses, which will be included in the hearing record. Attached are questions directed to you from members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your responses to the member who has submitted the questions using the Word document provided with this letter.

To facilitate the publication of the hearing record, please submit your responses to these questions by no later than the close of business on Monday, September 23, 2019. As previously noted, this transmittal letter and your responses, as well as the responses from the other witnesses appearing at the hearing, will all be included in the hearing record. Your responses should be transmitted by e-mail in the Word document provided with this letter to Jourdan Lewis with the Committee staff (jourdan.lewis@mail.house.gov). A paper copy of your responses is not required. Using the Word document provided for submitting your responses will also help maintain the proper format for incorporating your answers into the hearing record.

Mr. Gary Barksdale
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Ms. Lewis at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman

Attachment

cc: Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Diana DeGette, Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Hon. Brett Guthrie, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

**Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**

**Hearing on
“Oversight of Federal Efforts to Combat the Spread of Illicit Fentanyl”**

July 16, 2019

Mr. Gary Barksdale, Chief Postal Inspector, United States Postal Service

The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

1. Drug traffickers often use freight forwarders to ship fentanyl and fentanyl analogs from China. Such multiple transfers of custody make it difficult for law enforcement to track these packages. Are changes in the law needed to combat the problem of freight forwarding of fentanyl in the mail? If so, what are USPS' suggestions?
2. How is advanced electronic data (AED) going to help target and intercept packages containing fentanyl?
3. On average, how many packages are coming into our international mail facilities (IMF) on any given day?
4. How many of those packages currently come with AED?
5. How reliable and useful is the AED when it comes to helping mail entities and law enforcement interdict packages containing narcotics?
6. What unique challenges does fentanyl pose as opposed to other narcotics when it comes to detecting and interdicting fentanyl coming in through the mail?
7. What more would law enforcement need in order to be best positioned to interdict more packages containing narcotics, like fentanyl?
8. Your written testimony states that current seizure statistics show a decrease in international seizures related to fentanyl, while domestic seizures are trending up. Your testimony suggests that synthetic opioids are increasingly entering the country through means other than international mail before distributed through mail, consignment carriers, or traditional drug distribution networks. Outside of these international channels, what are the other potential means for fentanyl and synthetic opioids to enter the United States?
9. How can data collection be improved to bolster your agency's intelligence and ability to interdict packages or seize narcotics, such as fentanyl?

The Honorable Susan Brooks (R-IN)

1. One thing I am concerned about is that many opioids in the mail are fentanyl and its derivatives, which are potent enough that a dose smaller than the size of a penny can cause a fatal overdose. In your [prepared] testimony, you highlighted the importance of employee safety and the extra steps taken by the Postal Service to protect employees from accidental exposure to opioids with Narcan nasal spray.
2. Could you provide more specific information about how many postal facilities and the percent of them that have access to Narcan nasal spray?
3. Your testimony only mentions key facilities, which suggests many of our nations postal workers are unprotected. Can you provide some more information about efforts to better protect postal workers and our constituents?
4. You highlighted the role of naloxone in protecting your employees and the public. There was legislation that passed last Congress focused on ensuring that CBP has tools to screen for fentanyl, and a similar bill introduced to allow local law enforcement agencies to screen – but it seems like that is only part of the solution, and that Congress could work on similar legislation to ensure there is access to adequate supplies of naloxone to protect your employees and the public.
 - a. So, I wanted to ask both you if you would support Congress providing funding to increase the deployment of naloxone to your employees?