

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH 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

September 9, 2019

Mr. Kemp Chester  
Assistant Director of the  
National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Assistant Director Chester:

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](mailto: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. Kemp Chester  
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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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. Kemp Chester, Assistant Director of the National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President**

**The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)**

1. A key role of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is to coordinate the federal agencies that have responsibility for the prevention, treatment, and enforcement of drug control activities in the United States. In your testimony, you cite ONDCP efforts to coordinate these agencies in addressing the fentanyl crisis, including through meetings, video teleconferences, and webinars.
  - a. What has been the effect of this coordination? What tangible results have occurred because of these coordination efforts?
  - b. How does ONDCP measure success as it relates to addressing the fentanyl crisis?
2. Some agencies have told the Committee they have experienced difficulties receiving information or data from other agencies that could be helpful in identifying leads or developing cases related to illicit fentanyl.
  - a. What issues has ONDCP identified in information sharing between agencies working to counter the threat of fentanyl?
  - b. What steps has ONDCP taken to resolve those issues, and what have been the results?

**The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)**

1. In October 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the first indictments against Chinese nationals who were manufacturers and distributors of fentanyl. Even though there is little prospect that the Chinese nationals will ever be in an American courtroom, what is the purpose and impact of indicting Chinese nationals for illicit fentanyl trafficking?
2. How many different fentanyl analogs have been identified as coming from China?

3. What are some of the common ways in which fentanyl is trafficked from China to the United States?
4. Diplomacy and law enforcement each have a vital role in the fight against fentanyl. However, like the efforts against rogue internet pharmacies a few years ago, I understand a strategy for disrupting operations and creating risk is also a part of the overall approach. To the extent appropriate, please describe the United States strategy for the disruption of illicit fentanyl trafficking.
5. What are some of the ballooning effects we could see if the scheduling of fentanyl in China is effective in reducing the supply coming from China?
  - a. If so, do we expect there to be a shift of fentanyl production to other countries, like India?
6. Is there reason to believe that pharmaceutical or chemical companies produce fentanyl as a third-shift operation at Chinese pharmaceutical factories?
  - a. If so, is such intelligence shared with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to see if any of the factories are associated with drug manufacturers registered with the FDA?
7. Do we expect a shift to other drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine?
8. What are some of the challenges that still exist when it comes to combating the fentanyl problem in the United States?
9. How do we anticipate the threat changing over the next few months if the scheduling of fentanyl in China is effective?
10. What synthetic opioids could emerge as alternatives to fentanyl if Chinese fentanyl restrictions are effective?
11. How can data collection be improved to bolster your agency's intelligence and ability to interdict packages or seize narcotics, such as fentanyl?