



# DAVE YOST

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April 14, 2021

Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Chairwoman

United States House Committee on Energy  
& Commerce, Subcommittee on Health  
272 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Ranking Member

United States House Committee on Energy  
& Commerce, Subcommittee on Health  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo & Representative Guthrie,

I write today to offer my strong support for H.R. 1910 and S. 339, companion legislation entitled the Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Acts. As you are likely aware, the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) temporary order classifying fentanyl-related compounds as Schedule I drugs is set to expire on May 6, 2021. This temporary order is already an extension of a previous emergency order that would have lapsed in February 2020. The FIGHT Fentanyl Acts would codify this temporary order, extending it permanently.

In the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 71,000 drug-related deaths in the United States in 2019. Of those deaths, roughly 50% involved fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound. In November 2019, a collaboration of local, state, and federal agencies working with my office intercepted over 20 kilograms of fentanyl, 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, and a half kilogram of heroin in Ohio. Further testing revealed that the 20 kilograms of fentanyl were laced with carfentanil, which can be over 100 times more potent than fentanyl.

I commend Senator Portman and Representative Chabot for their leadership in bringing forward this important legislation. There are many difficult, even impossible choices before you. This is not one of them, and may be the easiest task of your unenviable list. I urge you to pass H.R. 1910 and/or S. 339 before the DEA's temporary order expires.

I am happy to speak with you or any members of the Subcommittee at your convenience.

Yours,

Dave Yost  
Ohio Attorney General

Representative Anna Eshoo & Representative Brett Guthrie  
Re: H.R. 1910 and S. 339  
April 12, 2021

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cc:     Honorable Rob Portman                     Honorable Steve Chabot  
          United States Senate                     United States House of Representatives  
          448 Russell Senate Office Building     2408 Rayburn House Office Building  
          Washington, D.C. 20510                 Washington, D.C. 20515