

Follow the Money: The CCP's Business Model Fueling the Fentanyl Crisis."  
House Financial Services Committee  
Testimony by Donald H. Im (Retired DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge)  
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Good morning Chairman McHenry and Ranking Member Waters, and committee. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here along with my fellow panelists.

In the past 6 years over one-half million Americans have died due to drug overdoses and poisonings, perpetuated predominantly by the Sinaloa and CJNG cartels using synthetically produced chemicals designed and manufactured by Chinese chemists in laboratories located in WuHan, Hubei Province and other provinces throughout China.

As a recently retired Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, I spent over 31 years helping dismantle drug/weapons/wildlife trafficking and terrorist organizations by following their money, then finding ways to cut off their wealth and their financial support mechanisms.

In the early 1990's, with the FBI, Customs, IRS, the intelligence community, the department of defense, the State and Treasury Departments, DEA was the tip of the spear that led to the successful dismantling of the Medellin Cartel (Pablo Escobar) and the Cali Cartel.

Not long after Escobar's accountants and lawyers were identified and removed, he met his fate in late 1993. In 1995, then-President Clinton signed the first-ever narcotic sanctioning against the Cali Cartel under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act that helped dismantle the once powerful cartel. The DEA had identified the Cali Cartel's entire front companies based on a series of financial raids conducted by the Colombian national police years prior.

By identifying and attacking the financial underpinnings of these criminal organizations, the DEA and its interagency partners were able to move upstream, to the command and control...and subsequently, to the kingpins and bring them to justice.

Throughout the 1990's and 2000's, the DEA seized billions of dollars of drug cash off the streets, thereby, disrupting the drug cartels funding streams necessary to produce more drugs, acquire more weapons and to corrupt the rule of law.

I ask you, the Congress, the President of the United States, the National Security Leaders, the Secretaries of the Treasury, and State Department, and the Secretary of Defense, to fully support the DEA with a more robust budget, resources and the authority to lead the whole of US Government and let the DEA be that tip of the spear again.

## UNLEASH THE DEA

Let the men and women of the DEA, do its job....to go after the cartels, the global Chinese money launderers, the cartel facilitators--their accountants, lawyers, businessmen/women propping up and protecting their wealth that allows them to corrupt the rule of law with their profits.

If you want to mitigate this deadly epidemic and curtail the poisonings and overdoses, give the DEA additional manpower by deputizing thousands of state, local and federal law enforcement officers and agents op-conned to the DEA field offices. Increase HIDTA budgets throughout the United States in order to identify online drug traffickers and coordinate efforts to conduct nationwide takedowns of digital drug dealers marketing and selling fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and charge them with attempted murder.

Let the prosecutors use the full force of the law so that law enforcement can capture and dismantle those higher-level sources of supply and across the supply chain throughout the United States and abroad.

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, the National Counter Terrorism Center was created to coordinate intelligence, military and law enforcement agencies in one facility to help track and destroy terrorist organizations and prevent further attacks, with billions of dollars appropriated to fund and operate this center.

Since 1992, the DEA has operated a similar entity, the Special Operations Division, an interagency center with over 35 different law enforcement, intelligence and military agencies, designed to identify the command and control of the most powerful and violent drug, terrorist and transnational criminal organizations. The SOD successfully coordinated the arrests of drug cartel leaders like Chap Guzman, helped arrest and remove key Taliban leaders off the battlefield, arrested key Hezbollah operators and financiers, even a Russian arms dealer.

Fuel the SOD with a larger budget and fully staff it with key interagency executives, agents and analysts to allow this center to fully maximize its capabilities.

Streamline a multi-prong strategy in the SOD by integrating a team of criminal investigators, intelligence, cyber and data analysts from the DEA, FBI, HSI, IRS, Treasury and US Postal Inspections Service, to establish the Multi-Agency Financial Investigative Center (MAFIC) that will identify the key financiers and nodes of the entire illicit narcotic supply chain

We don't need to reinvent the wheel; we just need to re-align and tune up our capabilities and provide the necessary resources and leadership to unleash the DEA and its interagency partners to dramatically reduce and eliminate this crisis once and for all. Thank you

I can answer any questions you may have.