

Chairman Moolenaar Opening Remarks
Fentanyl Policy Working Group Final Meeting
12.17.24 – as prepared for delivery

This is a season of joy for Americans, however, for all too many families, their joy will be overshadowed by empty seats at the Christmas table. Missing fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, uncles and nephews, taken from their loved ones by a silent killer.

On average, over 200 Americans die from fentanyl daily. Imagine a passenger plane carrying over 200 people crashing and killing everyone on board. That is what is happening every day in America's fentanyl crisis.

Over 97% of fentanyl precursors are produced in the People's Republic of China with the complicity and support of the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP directly subsidizes the mass production and export of fentanyl and its precursors that *are illegal to produce* in China. Some of these companies are even owned by the CCP.

While the CCP uses its oppressive surveillance state to stop domestic drug trafficking, it does less than *nothing* to monitor, censor, or prevent the export of drugs out of China. When presented with evidence of Chinese companies breaking Chinese law (and killing Americans), the government has tipped off the criminals to help them evade action by the U.S. rather than prosecuting their criminal activity.

This is all part of the CCP's playbook on asymmetric warfare—encouraging and turning a blind eye toward criminal activity so long as that activity harms Americans.

This cannot continue.

Under the leadership of our co-leads Dan Newhouse and Jake Auchincloss, this policy working group has developed bipartisan solutions that will help us beat back the tide of CCP fentanyl that is murdering Americans.

I fully endorse the three bills they introduced earlier, and look forward to seeing those bills become law next year. We must ensure that the CCP can no longer profit from flooding America with illegal fentanyl, and that the individuals and entities complicit in this atrocity face the full consequences of the law.

We owe that to the countless victims of this CCP-fueled epidemic, and to future generations of Americans.

Thank you to Congressmen Newhouse and Auchincloss, the Ranking Member, and all the fentanyl working group's members for this package of bipartisan legislation and the tireless work they have put into this policy working group.