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Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Concurrent Resolution 7  
Ohio Senate Community Revitalization Committee  
September 20, 2023

Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Community Revitalization Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 7.

This resolution condemns China for its role in the global drug trade as the largest point of origin of fentanyl smuggled to the United States.

In my district and all over Ohio, I have witnessed firsthand the devastation of drug addiction. In 2022, which is the most complete data available from the CDC, over 109,000 Americans died from an unintentional drug overdose (also known as an accidental poisoning). More than 5,000 of those were Ohioans. That's roughly the equivalent of 300 Americans, 14 Ohioans, dying **per day** from this crisis – and those numbers are increasing every year.

The wave of fentanyl overdoses has impacted virtually every part of Ohio and America. While there have been many state-led efforts to address drug trafficking and addiction recovery, it is long past time to address the source of this latest wave of the opioid scourge: the People's Republic of China.

China has been the source of the majority of fentanyl trafficked into the United States, through both US Mail and across the Mexican border. Despite this, China has failed to address illegal drug activity

within its borders, and has refused to cooperate with U.S. efforts to slow and stop the illegal drug export industry.

It has allowed cartels to operate within Chinese borders, refused to assist the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in its investigations, delayed U.S. requests for access to investigate illegal activity, and formally suspended U.S.-China cooperation in counternarcotics.

Not only has China failed to act, it actually encourages the production of fentanyl and its precursors through economic incentives such as its New and High Technology Enterprise designation, which currently awards multiple fentanyl distributors in China preferential tax policies, and value-added tax rebates for fentanyl analogues and precursors. Higher rebate rates increase the incentive to export that product.

The People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party are permitting and incentivizing the production of a drug that kills thousands of Ohioans per year. This is part of a pattern – a sign that Communist China is waging unrestricted warfare on the United States. These actions are the mark of pharmaceutical, if not chemical warfare, against not just America, but the world. China has made the destabilization and domination of the United States its number one goal.

This is absolutely unacceptable behavior from a nation which holds itself up as an honest trading partner with the United States. I am appalled that so many in our nation ignore their actions.

My constituents in the 14<sup>th</sup> district are fed up with this unbridled, atrocious aggression, and want China held to account. So do citizens from all over our state and nation. I certainly agree. A good first step in achieving that accountability is letting the tyrants of the CCP know that the people of Ohio see what they are doing and are now publicly calling them out.

We are not afraid of Communist China. We, the people of Ohio, will not be cowed by any action they may choose to take against us.

While I doubt that the PRC will stand shaking in its boots after we pass this condemnation of their actions, I believe fully that they will take notice. The Chinese Communist Party hates it when their dirty laundry is placed before the open eyes of the world, in the full light of day.

I sincerely hope that more states will follow the example of Ohio and put this rogue, merciless nation on notice. These actions of unrestricted warfare have no place in the conduct of affairs between civilized nations.

Finally, I want to make it crystal clear that what we are doing here is specifically and quite accurately leveled at the CCP and not the Chinese people. The Chinese people are also victims of the CCP's evil acts; no better proof of that could be set forth than the atrocities that the CCP orchestrated in Tiananmen Square in response to a massive but peaceful protest.

The CCP is the enemy not just of the world, but most importantly of its own people. Proofs of their brutality against the Chinese people are multitudinous and indisputably well documented, but I will go no further into those dark aggressions today.

Through inaction against the cartels and money launderers within its own borders, and through the corrupt economic system benefitting the businesses that hurt us most, China has set itself up as our enemy, plain and simple. I believe that it is time for the Ohio Legislature to hold the leaders of the CCP accountable.

Thank you again for your time and attention. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.