

Ohio Senate Concurrent Resolution 1

Urge designation of illicit fentanyl a weapon of mass destruction

Testimony of Adam Savit, America First Policy Institute

It is a privilege to provide testimony to the Ohio Senate Committee on Armed Services. Thank you, Chairman Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Committee.

My name is Adam Savit, and I direct the China Policy Initiative at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). AFPI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute. At AFPI, we believe that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) poses a comprehensive threat to U.S. national security. The path to American success lies in our own economic prosperity, secure supply chains, energy independence, and military deterrence to neutralize this threat while avoiding war.

I am writing to register AFPI's support for the policies contained in Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, urging the designation of illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction. The People's Republic of China (PRC) and the CCP have been conducting unrestricted warfare against the U.S. AFPI recognizes the production of fentanyl and fentanyl precursors as one of the most destructive pursuits of the CCP. The CCP also facilitates the distribution of fentanyl to our streets and communities, causing the death of tens of thousands of Americans and thousands of Ohioans every year.

In fentanyl, the CCP has found the perfect vehicle to destroy millions of American lives with minimal investment and minimal effort. Just a few kilograms of precursor chemicals are enough to supply millions of doses of fentanyl, which makes border searches difficult when looking through hundreds of thousands of tons of chemicals.

In 2020, data from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) identified China as the origin of the precursors that are used to produce nearly all fentanyl trafficked into the U.S. The DEA explained that these precursors historically have been illegally shipped either directly into the U.S. or through Mexico and Canada, then smuggled across the border.

In 2024, the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (House China Select Committee) published a [revolutionary report](#) exposing the CCP's role in the deadly fentanyl epidemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of Americans. This investigation involved delving deep into public

PRC websites, analyzing PRC government documents, acquiring over 37,000 unique data points of PRC companies selling narcotics online through web scraping and data analytics, undercover communications with PRC drug trafficking companies, and consultations with experts in the public and private sectors.

The House China Select Committee found that the PRC government under the control of the CCP:

- **Directly subsidizes the manufacturing and export of illicit fentanyl materials and other synthetic narcotics through tax rebates.** Many of these substances are illegal under the PRC's own laws and have no known legal use worldwide. Like its export tax rebates for legitimate goods, the CCP's subsidies of illegal drugs incentivizes international synthetic drug sales from the PRC. The CCP never disclosed this program.
- **Gave monetary grants and awards to companies openly trafficking illicit fentanyl materials and other synthetic narcotics.** There are even examples of some of these companies enjoying site visits from provincial PRC government officials who complimented them for their impact on the provincial economy.
- **Holds ownership interest in several PRC companies tied to drug trafficking.** This includes a PRC government prison connected to human rights abuses owning a drug trafficking chemical company and a publicly traded PRC company hosting thousands of instances of open drug trafficking on its sites.
- **Fails to prosecute fentanyl and precursor manufacturers.** Rather than investigating drug traffickers, PRC security services have not cooperated with U.S. law enforcement, and have even notified targets of U.S. investigations when they received requests for assistance.
- **Allows the open sale of fentanyl precursors and other illicit materials on the extensively monitored and controlled PRC internet.** A review of just seven e-commerce sites found over 31,000 instances of PRC companies selling illicit chemicals with obvious ties to drug trafficking. Undercover communications with PRC drug trafficking companies (whose identities were provided to U.S. law enforcement) revealed an eagerness to engage in clearly illicit drug sales with no fear of reprisal.
- **Censors content about domestic drug sales, but leaves export-focused narcotics content untouched.** The PRC has censorship triggers for domestic drug sales (e.g.,

“fentanyl + cash on delivery”), but no such triggers exist to monitor or prevent the export of illicit narcotics out of the PRC.

- **Strategically and economically benefits from the fentanyl crisis.** The fentanyl crisis has helped CCP-tied Chinese organized criminal groups become the world’s premier money launderers, enriched the PRC’s chemical industry, and has had a devastating impact on Americans.

The brilliant work of the House China Select Committee proves that the CCP is complicit in the production and distribution of deadly fentanyl. The scourge of fentanyl has resulted in hundreds of thousands of American deaths over the past decade. Therefore, it is proper to designate fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction and to recognize the essential role of the CCP in bringing that destruction to the United States of America.

The America First Policy Institute supports the policies outlined in Ohio Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 and encourages lawmakers to enact the policies set forth.