

By: Representative Richmond

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO CALL ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DISRUPT THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN DRUG CARTELS AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, DECLARE FENTANYL TO BE A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND DESIGNATE THE MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Subtitle

TO CALL ON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE FENTANYL TO BE A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND TO DESIGNATE THE MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

WHEREAS, drug overdoses have killed more than one hundred thousand (100,000) Americans over the past year; and

WHEREAS, sixty-six percent (66%) of the overdose deaths in the past year were related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration reports that Mexican drug cartels, including the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, import dangerous raw materials from China, use them to produce deadly synthetic opioids at low cost, and unlawfully transport those opioids into the United States; and

WHEREAS, both the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel have expanded their deadly business into the United States; and



WHEREAS, these foreign drugs have created twin public-health and national-security crises of unparalleled magnitude; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, Mexican drug cartels have developed well-organized armed forces to protect their reprehensible trade from rivals and from the Mexican government; and

WHEREAS, the existence of the cartels' armed forces just across our southwestern land border and the Mexican government's inability to control these armed forces pose a threat to our national security far greater than a typical drug-trafficking enterprise; and

WHEREAS, the threat to our national security is made greater still by the known links between the Mexican drug cartels and foreign terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, who already intend to do our country harm; and

WHEREAS, the United States Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration Anne Milgram has emphatically declared that "fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever faced"; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Post recently reported, "An estimated 196 Americans are now dying each day from the drug – the equivalent of a fully loaded Boeing 757-200 crashing and killing everyone on board"; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican drug cartels are essentially conducting chemical warfare on everyday Americans, affecting every community, town, and city in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the cartels are importing a chemical agent – synthetic opioids like fentanyl – into the United States to endanger the safety of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the same cartels that produce and traffic this dangerous chemical are also assassinating rivals and government officials, ambushing and killing Americans at the border, and engaging in an armed insurgency against the Mexican government; and

WHEREAS, the destructive status quo caused by fentanyl and violence related to fentanyl is costing hundreds of thousands of American lives each year; and

WHEREAS, this catastrophic loss of life is inexcusable, yet it has received an anemic response from the federal government,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT it is time to respond to these crises because our national security requires the United States Government to disrupt the collaboration between drug cartels and terrorist organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives call on President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and the United States Congress to treat fentanyl as the danger it truly is and declare it a weapon of mass destruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives request that the Sinaloa Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and other similarly situated Mexican drug cartels be designated as foreign terrorist organizations under 8 U.S.C. § 1189.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, and the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.