January 12, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

The ongoing opioid crisis is ravaging our communities and only getting worse, with annual overdose deaths topping 100,000 for the first time in 2021. We appreciate your continued commitment to combating the opioid epidemic, but temporary extensions of the Schedule I classification of fentanyl-related substances to February 18th, 2022 are not enough. We therefore write to urge consideration of legislation to permanently classify fentanyl analogues as a Schedule I substance. It is especially critical in light of the recent news that fentanyl overdoses are now the leading cause of death in American adults ages 18 to 45.

As you know, opioids like fentanyl have claimed the lives of our family members, friends, and neighbors at alarming rates in our home states and across the country. In many of these unfortunate cases the fentanyl and other illicit substances are trafficked from outside the United States, which is why it is critical that we strengthen international efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking, including increased collaboration and capacity-building measures. In November 2021 alone, 1,113 pounds of fentanyl were seized by Customs and Border Protection agents, which is enough to kill over 250 million people.

Additional legislation is needed to keep deadly synthetic drugs off the streets by permanently classifying fentanyl-related substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. We must take tougher steps to keep deadly substances like fentanyl out of our neighborhoods and bring those responsible to justice. Permanent scheduling of fentanyl-related substances is essential in our fight to save lives and confront the addiction epidemic, and we urge you to take swift action to ensure passage of legislation.

Thank you for your dedication to the health and well-being of the American people. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress

Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress
Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Stephanie L. Bice  
Member of Congress

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress
Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress

David Kustoff  
Member of Congress

Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

French Hill  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann  
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress