

U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Calls on President Trump to sign bipartisan legislation passed by Congress to help halt flow of illicit fentanyl into the United States

Posted on Friday, Dec 22, 2017

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

For Immediate Release

Friday, December 22, 2017

Contact: press@baldwin.senate.gov

[\(202\) 224 - 6225](tel:(202)224-6225)

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin Calls on President Trump to Sign Bipartisan Legislation Passed by Congress to Help Halt Flow of Illicit Fentanyl into the United States

Baldwin supported bipartisan legislation will help promote the latest in chemical screening devices and scientific support to detect and intercept fentanyl and other synthetic opioids

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Bipartisan legislation cosponsored by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin passed the Senate last night and she is calling on President Trump to quickly sign it into law. The *INTERDICT Act*, would provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tools such as hi-tech chemical screening devices to help detect and interdict fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioids

“The growing crisis of fentanyl and opioid abuse is hurting families and taking lives at alarming rates both in Wisconsin and across our country,” **said Senator Baldwin**. “We must do more to combat this epidemic. This bipartisan legislation will help ensure that Customs and Border Protection officers have the tools they need to help stop fentanyl from entering our communities.”

This spring, [Senator Baldwin held a roundtable in Milwaukee on the fentanyl crisis](#). Senator Baldwin brought together health care providers, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner and Wisconsinites working on the front lines to combat this crisis to discuss how illicit fentanyl is impacting Wisconsin. In 2016, Milwaukee County saw 97 deaths related to fentanyl – an increase of 223% from 2015.

In 2016, CBP seized nearly 200 pounds of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids like fentanyl, primarily from along the southwest border. This is a 25-fold increase over seizures in 2015. Between 2014 and 2015, deaths involving synthetic opioids, which include fentanyl, increased by 72%, taking more than 9,500 lives. Mexico is the primary source for illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States, while distributors in China are the principal source of the precursor chemicals used to manufacture the drug, as well as a source for finished-product illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, which are often shipped to the United States through the mail and express consignment carriers.

Specifically, the INTERDICT Act:

- Ensures that CBP will have additional portable chemical screening devices available at ports of entry and mail and express consignment facilities, and additional fixed chemical screening devices available in CBP laboratories.
- Provides CBP with sufficient resources, personnel, and facilities – including scientists available during all operational hours – to interpret screening test results from the field.
- Authorizes the appropriation of \$9 million for hundreds of new screening devices, laboratory equipment, facilities, and personnel for support during all operational hours.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).