

U.S. Rep. Van Orden: Statement on HALT Fentanyl Act

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WASHINGTON, DC - Today, the House of Representatives passed the HALT Fentanyl Act, which will supply law enforcement with the tools needed to keep illicit fentanyl off our streets, make the class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances permanent, and support research efforts to understand the impact of fentanyl-related substances.

“Illicit fentanyl is killing our friends and family members in the District and across the nation,” said Van Orden. **“We are arming our law enforcement officers with the tools they need to stop this scourge, and I strongly encourage President Biden to sign it into law.”**

Illicit fentanyl poisonings are now the number one cause of death among adults 18-49—more than COVID-19, cancer, heart disease, and car accidents. Wisconsin lost 1,280 people to fentanyl overdoses in 2021.

Under current law, starting December January 1, 2025, fentanyl related substances will no longer be Schedule I and effectively legal unless the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) schedules each specific chemical formula one by one. The HALT Fentanyl Act will permanently place the class in Schedule I to remove incentive for the creation of new fentanyl related substances.