

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

October 18, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

Last month, Members of the Republican Study Committee held a roundtable where we sat down with families who have lost loved ones to the fentanyl crisis. It is clear that families' pleas to the administration to step up their fight against the fentanyl crisis have fallen on deaf ears. We respectfully request a meeting so that we can discuss solutions to the fentanyl crisis, discuss what we learned from constituents at the roundtable, and share with you a box of obituaries, pictures, and letters from grieving loved ones who want you to see the real life impact your refusal to address this crisis is having on families throughout our country.

Fentanyl trafficked into the United States by drug cartels, typically made with precursor chemicals sourced from China, is inflicting immeasurable damage to the United States. Fentanyl overdoses are currently the leading cause of death for U.S. adults between the ages of 18 and 45. Of the 108,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021, over 70,000 were caused by fentanyl poisoning. Worse yet, drug cartels are expanding their efforts to increase adolescent drug addiction by disguising fentanyl and other narcotics as candy.<sup>1</sup> The fentanyl crisis is taking far too many lives and robbing countless Americans of a productive future.

We would like to share with you the stories of Lori and Dean Ashenfelder who lost their son DJ last year. He was 31. After DJ's death, the Ashenfelders started a nonprofit called DJ's Wish – Freedom From Fentanyl, which is bringing awareness to the fentanyl crisis. We also want to share with you the story of Theresa Juillerat who lost her son Christopher in May 2020. He was only 23. This is just a very small sample of the countless families who have been affected by the fentanyl crisis.

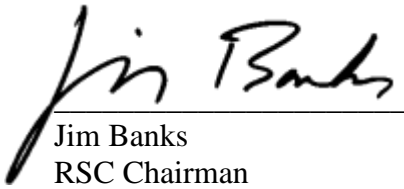
We would also like to discuss solutions to the crisis, such as increasing resources for federal law enforcement and giving prosecutors more tools to put drug traffickers and drug dealers behind bars. Lastly, we urge you to use every authority available to step up the fight against the scourge of fentanyl which is pouring through the southern border at record rates. We

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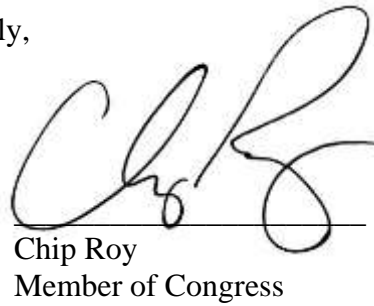
<sup>1</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration Press Release, August 30, 2022, DEA Warns of Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans, available at: <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>

are losing too many sons and daughters from this poison being trafficked into the United States for this crisis to be ignored.

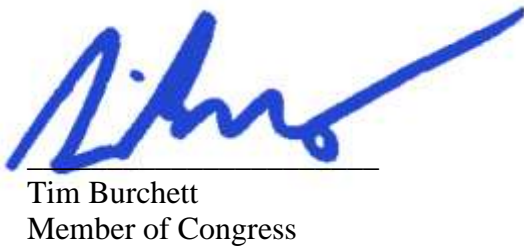
Sincerely,



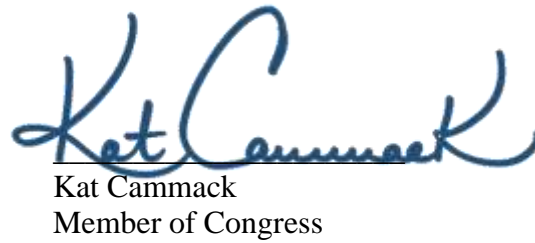
Jim Banks  
RSC Chairman



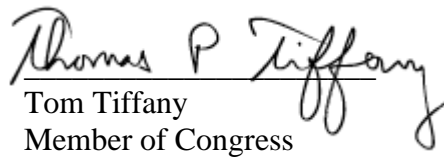
Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



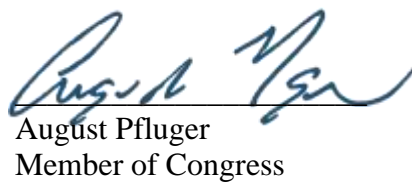
Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



August Pfluger  
Member of Congress