

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HR 1048

4
5 By: Representative Richmond

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

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

13
14
15 **Subtitle**

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

21
22 WHEREAS, drug overdoses have killed more than one hundred thousand
23 (100,000) Americans over the past year; and

24
25 WHEREAS, sixty-six percent (66%) of the overdose deaths in the past
26 year were related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl; and

27
28 WHEREAS, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration reports that
29 Mexican drug cartels, including the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New
30 Generation Cartel, import dangerous raw materials from China, use them to
31 produce deadly synthetic opioids at low cost, and unlawfully transport those
32 opioids into the United States; and

33
34 WHEREAS, both the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel
35 have expanded their deadly business into the United States; and

36



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

3
4 WHEREAS, over the past decade, Mexican drug cartels have developed
5 well-organized armed forces to protect their reprehensible trade from rivals
6 and from the Mexican government; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the existence of the cartels' armed forces just across our
9 southwestern land border and the Mexican government's inability to control
10 these armed forces pose a threat to our national security far greater than a
11 typical drug-trafficking enterprise; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the threat to our national security is made greater still by
14 the known links between the Mexican drug cartels and foreign terrorist
15 organizations like Hezbollah, who already intend to do our country harm; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the United States Administrator of the Drug Enforcement
18 Administration Anne Milgram has emphatically declared that "fentanyl is the
19 single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever faced"; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the Washington Post recently reported, "An estimated 196
22 Americans are now dying each day from the drug – the equivalent of a fully
23 loaded Boeing 757-200 crashing and killing everyone on board"; and

24
25 WHEREAS, the Mexican drug cartels are essentially conducting chemical
26 warfare on everyday Americans, affecting every community, town, and city in
27 our nation; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the cartels are importing a chemical agent – synthetic opioids
30 like fentanyl – into the United States to endanger the safety of the American
31 people; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the same cartels that produce and traffic this dangerous
34 chemical are also assassinating rivals and government officials, ambushing
35 and killing Americans at the border, and engaging in an armed insurgency
36 against the Mexican government; and

1
2 WHEREAS, the destructive status quo caused by fentanyl and violence
3 related to fentanyl is costing hundreds of thousands of American lives each
4 year; and

5
6 WHEREAS, this catastrophic loss of life is inexcusable, yet it has
7 received an anemic response from the federal government,

8
9 NOW THEREFORE,

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

12
13 THAT it is time to respond to these crises because our national
14 security requires the United States Government to disrupt the collaboration
15 between drug cartels and terrorist organizations.

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives call on
18 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and the
19 United States Congress to treat fentanyl as the danger it truly is and
20 declare it a weapon of mass destruction.

21
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives request that
23 the Sinaloa Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and other similarly
24 situated Mexican drug cartels be designated as foreign terrorist
25 organizations under 8 U.S.C. § 1189.

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
28 provided to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Secretary of State Anthony
29 Blinken, Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy, Senate
30 Majority Leader Charles Schumer, and the members of the Arkansas
31 Congressional Delegation.