

House Resolution 546

By: Representatives Mathis of the 149th, Gunter of the 8th, Smith of the 18th, Momtahan of the 17th, Fleming of the 125th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the work of law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia to combat the
2 fentanyl epidemic; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the fentanyl epidemic is one of the biggest threats facing the citizens of
4 Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, 107,375 people in the United States died of drug
6 overdoses and drug poisonings in the 12-month period ending in January 2022, and 67
7 percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl; and

8 WHEREAS, from 2019 to 2021, fentanyl involved overdose deaths increased by 232.1
9 percent in Georgia alone. Amongst children aged 10-19, fentanyl is responsible for a
10 staggering 800 percent increase in overdose deaths during the same time period; and

11 WHEREAS, fentanyl is being found not only by itself but also in illegal drugs such as
12 methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine, often causing unaware buyers to ingest what they
13 believe to be methamphetamine, heroin, or cocaine but instead get almost pure fentanyl with
14 often fatal results; and

15 WHEREAS, the drugs sold by criminal street gangs, often supplied by Mexican based
16 cartels, are some of the methods for how fentanyl is finding its way into Georgia. Fentanyl
17 is also being smuggled through legal ports hidden amongst cargo; and

18 WHEREAS, the rise in fentanyl in Georgia puts law enforcement tasked with stopping these
19 drugs as well as first responders trying to save lives at risk. Fentanyl exposure to law
20 enforcement officials is on the rise and puts their lives in danger from receiving an accidental
21 overdose as well. Deployment of naloxone, commonly referred to as Narcan, provides
22 temporary protection; an opioid overdose can turn fatal in as little as six minutes, but
23 naloxone can reverse it almost instantly.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body strongly support the work being done by law enforcement agencies
26 across Georgia as well as their federal partners to combat this crisis.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
28 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
29 public and the press.