

Urgent Call to Action: Support Life-Saving Legislation to Protect Correctional Staff and Inmates

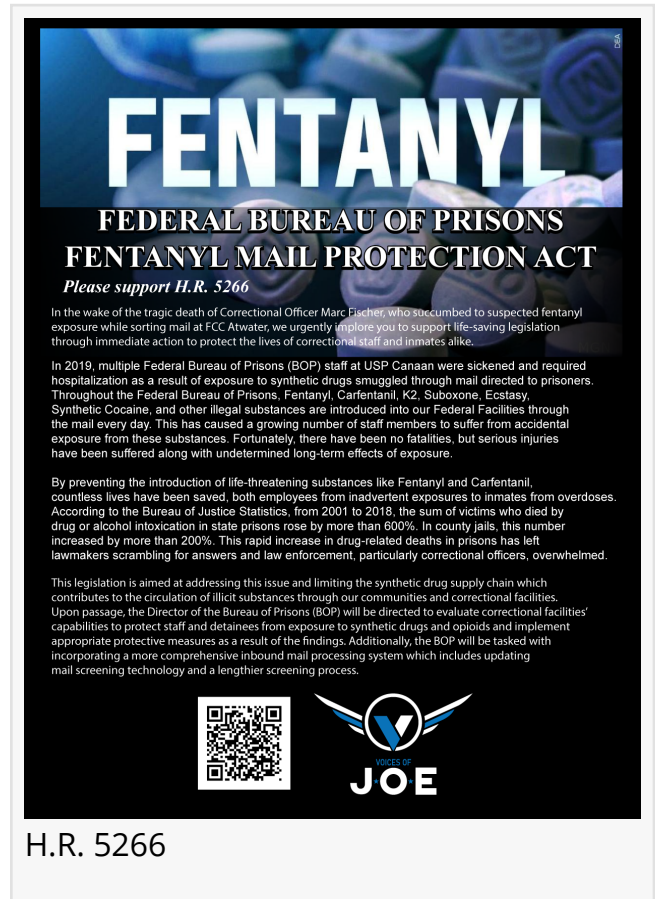
Congress must pass H.R. 5266, the Interdiction of Fentanyl in Postal Mail at Federal Prisons Act

THOMSON, IL, UNITED STATES, August 14, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [In the wake of the tragic death of Correctional Officer Marc Fischer](#), who succumbed to suspected fentanyl exposure while sorting mail at USP Atwater, (Federal Bureau of Prisons) the urgent need for action to protect the lives of correctional staff and inmates has become even more apparent. As we mourn the loss of Officer Fischer, we implore you to support life-saving legislation through immediate action.

H.R. 5266, also known as the "Interdiction of Fentanyl in Postal Mail at Federal Prisons Act," is a crucial piece of legislation that aims to prevent the entry of fentanyl into federal prisons through the mail system. This bill would require the use of advanced screening technology to detect and intercept fentanyl and other dangerous substances before they reach correctional facilities. It also provides funding for training and resources to help correctional staff safely handle and dispose of these substances.

The death of Officer Fischer is a tragic reminder of the dangers that correctional staff face every day while carrying out their duties. The use of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids has become a growing concern in correctional facilities, putting the lives of both staff and inmates at risk. This legislation is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of those who work and reside in federal prisons.

[Don Williams Father of fallen Federal Corrections Officer Eric Williams](#). My son died because Mission Critical reduced staff to save money. Now this officer is dead while they quibble over money. We need to let our voices be heard, and join Congressmen Bacon and Cartwright and demand this bill be passed. This kind of tragic incident cannot happen again. It is unacceptable.





FENTANYL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS
FENTANYL MAIL PROTECTION ACT
Please support H.R. 5266

In the wake of the tragic death of Correctional Officer Marc Fischer, who succumbed to suspected fentanyl exposure while sorting mail at FCC Atwater, we urgently implore you to support life-saving legislation through immediate action to protect the lives of correctional staff and inmates alike.

In 2019, multiple Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) staff at USP Canaan were sickened and required hospitalization as a result of exposure to synthetic drugs smuggled through mail directed to prisoners. Throughout the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Fentanyl, Carfentanyl, K2, Suboxone, Ecstasy, Synthetic Cocaine, and other illegal substances are introduced into our Federal Facilities through the mail every day. This has caused a growing number of staff members to suffer from accidental exposure from these substances. Fortunately, there have been no fatalities, but serious injuries have been suffered along with undetermined long-term effects of exposure.

By preventing the introduction of life-threatening substances like Fentanyl and Carfentanyl, countless lives have been saved, both employees from inadvertent exposures to inmates from overdoses. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 2001 to 2018, the sum of victims who died by drug or alcohol intoxication in state prisons rose by more than 600%. In county jails, this number increased by more than 200%. This rapid increase in drug-related deaths in prisons has left lawmakers scrambling for answers and law enforcement, particularly correctional officers, overwhelmed.

This legislation is aimed at addressing this issue and limiting the synthetic drug supply chain which contributes to the circulation of illicit substances through our communities and correctional facilities. Upon passage, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will be directed to evaluate correctional facilities' capabilities to protect staff and detainees from exposure to synthetic drugs and opioids and implement appropriate protective measures as a result of the findings. Additionally, the BOP will be tasked with incorporating a more comprehensive inbound mail processing system which includes updating mail screening technology and a lengthier screening process.



H.R. 5266



Congress must act now
before another law
enforcement officer is killed
in the line of duty."

Jon Zumkehr

We urge all members of Congress to take immediate action and support H.R. 5266. The safety and security of our correctional facilities and the dedicated staff who work there should be a top priority. Let us honor the memory of Officer Fischer by enacting this life-saving legislation and preventing future tragedies. Together, we can make a difference and protect the lives of those who serve our

country in the correctional system.

H.R. 5266, also known as the "Interdiction of Fentanyl in Postal Mail at Federal Prisons Act," is endorsed by the [National Fraternal Order of Police](#) and the American Federation of Government Employees and The House of Representatives Problem Solvers Caucus with 117 co-sponsors

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