



BOB CASEY

FIGHTING for PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

As the opioid epidemic continues to ravage American communities and families, it is imperative to stop the flow of fentanyl over the southwest border and support law enforcement officers working tirelessly to secure the border. Most of the fentanyl coming into the U.S. is trafficked into the country through official land border crossings on the southwest border by transnational criminal organizations. In fiscal year 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized 240,000 pounds¹ of drugs at the southwest land border, which included an estimated 1.1 billion doses² of fentanyl. Forty-four percent of total drug seizures and 99 percent of fentanyl seizures occurred at the southwest land border.³ While transnational criminal organizations smuggle illicit drugs into the U.S, they also illegally export currency from drug proceeds and firearms. This illegal trade occurs at official ports of entry, alongside legitimate trade and transit, and CBP personnel need more resources to enforce U.S. law.

The *Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act* would reduce the flow of fentanyl into the U.S. and crack down on crime by providing much-needed funding, technology, and staffing increases at ports of entry along the border. This bill would enable law enforcement officers to greatly expand capacity for scanning vehicles and cargo to detect contraband before it enters the country, slash access to supplies that dangerous drug cartels use to commit violence and crime, and prevent illicit fentanyl and other drugs from entering the U.S. and harming American communities.

Specifically, this bill would appropriate \$5.3 billion in funding to:

- Hire more law enforcement officers at the border, expand bonuses for CBP personnel, and hire essential staff to support CBP Officers and Border Patrol Agents;
- Support the procurement and deployment of Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) systems, which scan vehicles at the border and provide detailed images of their interiors to detect fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and help increase their effectiveness by supporting ongoing efforts to develop algorithms to analyze and flag these scans for officers;
- Create a structured outbound inspection program to increase seizure rates for firearms and currency flowing out of the country, and fund related technology and infrastructure;
- Support and expand existing fentanyl interdiction efforts by investigative law enforcement agencies and task forces throughout the country; and
- Strengthen existing law to ensure that crimes committed by smugglers and traffickers to impede the work of law enforcement officers at the border, such as destroying physical barriers or electronic devices, are sufficiently penalized.

¹ <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-drugs-dosage-value-and-weight>

³ Per [CBP data](#), in FY 2023, out of 549,000 pounds of drugs seized, 240,000 pounds were seized at the southwest land border; out of 27,000 pounds of fentanyl of seized, 26,700 pounds were seized at the southwest land border.