
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 325 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, ROZZI, PASHINSKI, BAKER, PICKETT, MILLARD,
V. BROWN, D. COSTA, McNEILL, LONGIETTI AND READSHAW,
MAY 11, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 11, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to approve the
2 Synthetic Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act, which
3 would close a dangerous loophole in Federal shipping law that
4 allows illegal drugs to reach American soil.

5 WHEREAS, The United States is experiencing a drug overdose
6 epidemic; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 33,000 individuals died from synthetic
8 opioid overdoses in 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, Heroin overdoses killed nearly 13,000 individuals
10 across the nation that same year; and

11 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, an average of 67 individuals died
12 every week from drug overdoses, totaling nearly 3,500 overdose
13 deaths in 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, The deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl can be 40 times
15 more potent than heroin, with only a pinch needed to be lethal;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review
18 Commission found that the majority of fentanyl is created in

1 Chinese laboratories and shipped to the United States via the
2 United States Postal Service; and

3 WHEREAS, Unlike private parcel carriers, the United States
4 Postal Service does not require electronic customs data to be
5 sent in advance for postal shipments arriving from foreign
6 countries; and

7 WHEREAS, Advance customs data would provide United States
8 Customs and Border Protection personnel with crucial information
9 about a package's origin, destination and contents, better
10 enabling customs agents and Drug Enforcement Administration
11 officials to seize packages of illegal drugs; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 340 million packages enter the United
13 States without this data each year; and

14 WHEREAS, The Synthetic Trafficking and Overdose Prevention
15 Act would require postal shipments from foreign countries to
16 provide that vital customs data in advance; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
19 States to approve the Synthetic Trafficking and Overdose
20 Prevention Act; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
23 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
24 Pennsylvania.