

Fentanyl Awareness for Children and Teens in Schools (FACTS) Act

Led by Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and John Cornyn (R-TX)

The FACTS Act seeks to establish education partnership programs between public schools and public health agencies to prevent the misuse and overdose of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids by youth.

The Problem:

As the fentanyl crisis continues to devastate communities across the country, it is also impacting our young people; some are struggling with addiction and others might try a drug once that happens to be laced with deadly fentanyl. Accidental overdoses from fentanyl and other synthetic opioids are a growing crisis: In 2021, fentanyl was involved in 84 percent of all teen overdose deaths, and from 2019 to 2021, nearly a quarter of the fentanyl-related adolescent deaths were from counterfeit pills that were not prescribed by a doctor¹. While some school districts are required or permitted to incorporate educational materials regarding the dangers of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, there is currently no coordinated federal strategy to combat this urgent, growing crisis in schools.

The Solution:

A comprehensive approach involving federal agencies overseeing health and education programs and replicating successful local programs can help turn the tide of accidental overdoses from synthetic opioids and save students' lives. The FACTS Act provides students, educators, and families with the information, support, and data that they need to prevent the misuse of and accidental overdose from fentanyl and synthetic opioids.

The Fentanyl Awareness for Children and Teens in Schools Act will:

- Establish education partnership programs between public schools and public health agencies to prevent the misuse of, and overdose with, synthetic opioids by youth;
- Develop a collaborative approach among local, state, and federal officials to identify and disseminate best practices in education and prevention regarding the misuse of, and overdose with, synthetic opioids by youth;
- Increase opportunities for employees of secondary schools receiving federal funds to receive professional development on the dangers of the misuse of, and overdose with, synthetic opioids by youth;
- Improve the availability and utility of data regarding the proliferation of synthetic opioids by youth; and,
- Allow Naloxone to be purchased by school-based health centers.

Endorsements:

AASA, The School Superintendents Association; American Federation of Teachers; American Psychological Association Services; Makin' It Happen Coalition for Resilient Youth, Inc.; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association of School Psychologists; National Parent Teacher Association; Raymond Coalition For Youth; School-Based Health Alliance

The FACTS Act is co-led in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Bonamici (D-OR-1), Kiley (R-CA-3), Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR-5), and Neguse (D-CO-2).

¹ Tanz LJ, Dinwiddie AT, Mattson CL, O'Donnell J, Davis NL. Drug Overdose Deaths Among Persons Aged 10–19 Years — United States, July 2019–December 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2022;71:1576–1582. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7150a2>

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