

## The Protecting Americans from Dangerous Opioids Act

In 2020, more than 90,000 people died from drug overdose, and we can safely assume over 51% of those involved an opioid or synthetic-opioid. That's, on average, 246 people dying every day. Worse yet, this trend is moving in the wrong direction. Last year was the highest number of overdose deaths we have ever seen. We must take action to stop this epidemic.

One significant factor is the sheer number of opioid medications on the market. In fact, this bill finds that:

- (1) According to the Centers for Disease Control, 3 out of 4 new heroin users abused prescription opioids before moving to heroin.
- (2) The United States makes up only 4.6 percent of the world's population, but consumes 80 percent of its opioid pain medications.
- (3) In 2012, health care providers wrote 259,000,000 prescriptions for painkillers, enough for every individual in the United States to have a bottle of pills.
- (4) The amount of prescription opioids sold in the United States has nearly quadrupled since 1999 without a reported increase in pain. At the same time overdose deaths involving opioids have also quadrupled since 1999.

That is why I am introducing the Protecting Americans from Dangerous Opioids Act. This bill would require the FDA to remove one opioid medication currently on the market for every new opioid medication that they approve. It instructs the FDA to prioritize revoking approval on non-abuse deterrent formulations and to consider the public health impact of the opioid being on the market.

This is a common sense step that will help us get dangerous opioids off the market and keep the growth of this deadly industry in check.