

## **The Halt All Lethal Trafficking of (HALT) Fentanyl Act (S.331)** *Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.)*

### **Permanently Scheduling Illicit Fentanyl-Related Substances**

- Amends the *Controlled Substances Act* to permanently classify illicit fentanyl knockoffs, known as fentanyl-related substances, as Schedule I.
- Ends the game of whack-a-mole Congress has played since 2018; Congress has repeatedly re-extended the first Trump administration's temporary Schedule I classification of fentanyl-related substances, but failed to commit to a permanent solution.
- Locks in permanent classification of fentanyl-related substances before its temporary Schedule I status expires on March 31, 2025.

### **Protecting Patients' Access to Legitimate, FDA-Approved Fentanyl**

- Preserves the Schedule II status and FDA-approved use of fentanyl for legitimate medical purposes.
  - Nine major medical associations [affirmed](#) the *HALT Fentanyl Act's* distinction between illicit, fentanyl-related substances and FDA-approved fentanyl, citing the bill's ability to, "effectively combat the illicit fentanyl epidemic while preserving access to legitimate, physician-directed pain management."

### **Supporting Law Enforcement and Codifying Existing Penalties**

- Maintains existing criminal penalties for fentanyl trafficking to ensure illicit manufacturers and traffickers can be fully prosecuted and victims and their families receive justice.
  - Penalties under the *HALT Fentanyl Act* are identical to what current law dictates under the temporary scheduling of fentanyl-related substances. The bill does not increase mandatory minimums.
- Utilizes the same class-scheduling rubric enacted seven years ago. This rubric has only ever been used to target lethal fentanyl-related substances and arrest defendant convicted of illicit drug trafficking and manufacturing.

### **Advancing Scientific and Medical Research**

- Streamlines the registration process for Schedule I researchers, allowing more scientists to study fentanyl-related substances.
- Includes provisions to permit a single registration for related research sites, allowing researchers with ongoing studies to examine newly added fentanyl-related substances and authorize registered researchers to manufacture small quantities of fentanyl-related substances without a separate registration.

