

To Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I am writing to express my concern about the fentanyl test strips amendment introduced by Senator.

Welch to the HALT Fentanyl Act bill.

I have found the following information:

Testing strips may not detect the presence of some analogs, like alfentanil or carfentanil. The Testing strips also may not work as well in the presence of large amounts of methamphetamine.

MDMA, or diphenhydramine. Sep 23, 2024

What is the limit of detection for fentanyl test strips?

The lowest limit of detection (0.100 mcg/mL), false negative (3.7%), and false positive rate (9.6%) was found for fentanyl test strips, which also correctly detected two fentanyl analogs. (acetyl fentanyl and furanyl fentanyl) alone or in the presence of another drug, in both powder and pill forms.

Can fentanyl test strips be false positives?

Diphenhydramine, lidocaine, MDMA, and methamphetamine were found to cause false positives.

There was notable lot-to-lot variability in the sensitivity of the strips for fentanyl.

fentanyl analogs, and known interferences. Jan 18, 2024

Analogues are forever changing; manufacturers of this drug know this. They are smart; they are not.

chemist but know how to circumvent the scheduling so this bill must pass without this concern. Also, different parts of a drug sample can contain varying amounts of the substance and its adulterants or contaminants. The FTS results will show a negative in the sample used, but the portion of the drug not tested has contained lethal doses of fentanyl.

This presents a false sense, and a person will feel safe ingesting the drug. The larger portion of The drug not tested contained lethal amounts of illicit fentanyl and/or large amounts of methamphetamine, MDMA, or diphenhydramine, which also will produce a false negative result is ingested. This is not safe; a person could die even though they thought using an FTS would alert them, a false negative result is dangerous.

My son and his girlfriend are two of the tens of thousands, if not in the 100s of thousands of victims of fentanyl poisoning that did use enough to be on harm reduction radar and had access to FTS. This bill will help many more people not DIE from illicit fentanyl and other illicit poisons. A person with substance use disorder visiting harm reduction sites will still be given FTS; Passing this bill clean does not stop that. Of those, FTS will provide a false negative, false positive, or give a false sense the drug they are ingesting is safe. This bill passing as is will provide real change and send the message to the manufacturers of these illicit drugs we are closing in on those loopholes so they have no incentive to keep creating these deadly poisons. FTS may help a user in the moment, but this bill will help ALL people, those with or without a SUD!

"The HALT Fentanyl Act would make permanent fentanyl-related substances' Schedule 1 classification

and ensure law enforcement has the tools they need to combat these deadly drugs."

It is well known cartels keep generating new analogs faster than they can be scheduled.
Please pass the HALT Fentanyl Act without amendments.

Thank you,

Jackie Long

Baltimore County, Maryland