

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

As mayors representing millions of Americans, we strongly urge you to pass President Biden's supplemental funding request, which includes urgently needed resources to address the fentanyl and synthetic opioid crisis which is killing 150 people a day. Cities are experiencing record fentanyl overdoses, and additional funding is needed to ensure federal law enforcement, first responders, and our public health systems have the tools they need to combat this epidemic and keep our communities safe. We greatly appreciate the Biden Administration's efforts on this critical issue, but more must be done.

The deadly fentanyl crisis impacts every corner of our country, from urban to rural areas. Fentanyl is potent, cheap, highly addictive, and can be fatal even in extremely small amounts. It is flooding our streets and, more often, is found in other narcotics. More than 100,000 Americans died from overdose in 2022, with the vast majority attributed to opioids. In 2023, fentanyl continues to victimize our most vulnerable, tear apart families, and kill at an alarming rate. The President's supplemental request reflects this grim reality and takes meaningful steps to address this issue with a dual public safety and public health approach.

The President's supplemental request includes \$1.2 billion to crack down on the trafficking of illicit fentanyl and halt its passage through U.S. borders. These funds will enable the Department of Homeland Security to hire over 1,000 new Customs and Border Protection officers and expand Homeland Security Investigations related to fentanyl trafficking. Law enforcement will also be provided with cutting-edge technologies required to detect and seize fentanyl at U.S. ports of entry, helping stop the flow of deadly narcotics into our communities.

The President's supplemental funding request would also allocate \$1.5 billion in grant funding to localities through the Department of Health and Human Services' State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program. These critical dollars will provide communities with life-saving treatment options, staffing, and other resources needed to prevent overdose deaths and expand access to recovery support services. Without these funds, cities will be left critically under-resourced in our fight against this deadly drug.

The President's request recognizes the multi-pronged approach needed to address the devastating impacts of fentanyl. We believe there is a bipartisan consensus on the urgency of this crisis and urge you to provide localities and federal law enforcement with the tools needed to save American lives.

Thank you,

Mayor Bruce Harrell
City of Seattle, WA

Mayor London N. Breed
City of San Francisco, CA

Mayor John Giles
City of Mesa, AZ

Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix, AZ

Mayor Lily Mei
City of Fremont, CA

Mayor Jerry Dyer
City of Fresno, CA

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach, CA

Mayor Todd Gloria
City of San Diego, CA

Mayor Matt Mahan
City of San Jose, CA

Mayor Valerie Amezcua
City of Santa Ana, CA

Mayor Martha Guerrero
City of West Sacramento, CA

Mayor Mike Johnston
City of Denver, CO

Mayor Luke Bronin
City of Hartford, CT

Mayor Muriel Bowser
City of Washington, DC

Mayor Jane Castor
City of Tampa, FL

Mayor Quinton Lucas
City of Kansas City, MO

Mayor Tishaura Jones
City of St. Louis, MO

Mayor Vi Lyles
City of Charlotte, NC

Mayor Aftab Pureval
City of Cincinnati, OH

Mayor Justin Bibb
City of Cleveland, OH

Mayor Lucy Vinis
City of Eugene, OR

Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland, OR

Mayor Jim Kenney
City of Philadelphia, PA

Mayor Cassie Franklin
City of Everett, WA

Mayor Sofia Aragon
City of Burien, WA

Mayor Glenn Johnson
City of Pullman, WA

Mayor Allan Ekberg
City of Tukwila, WA

Mayor Janice Deccio
City of Yakima, WA

Mayor Brett Gailey
City of Lake Stevens, WA

Mayor Cheryl Selby
City of Olympia, WA

Mayor Greg Wheeler
City of Bremerton, WA

Mayor Lynne Robinson
City of Bellevue, WA

Mayor Keith Scully
City of Shoreline, WA

Mayor Jason Whalen
City of Lakewood, WA

Mayor Christine Frizzell
City of Lynnwood, WA

Mayor Matt Mahoney
City of Des Moines, WA

Mayor Angela Birney
City of Redmond, WA