



## Bruce's Law

***Reps. David Trone (D-MD), Hal Rogers (R-KY), Doug Lamborn (R-CO),  
and Mary Sattler Peltola (D-AK)***

### **Synthetic Opioid Deaths on the Rise**

An average of 200 Americans die every day from a synthetic opioid-related overdose.<sup>1</sup> Overdose deaths linked to synthetic opioids like fentanyl almost doubled between 2019 and 2021, leading to the highest number of overdoses ever in 2021.<sup>1</sup> During that two-year period, fentanyl-related overdose deaths among adolescents jumped 350%.<sup>2</sup> A recent survey of 13 to 24-year-olds found that 40% had never heard of drug deaths involving fentanyl and only 37% considered fentanyl extremely dangerous.<sup>3</sup>

Bruce's Law is named for Bruce Snodgrass, a 22-year-old Alaskan who was one of the 72,000 Americans who died from a synthetic opioid-related overdose in 2021. Bruce's father and grandfather also died from substance use disorder.

### **What does *Bruce's Law* do?**

*Bruce's Law* seeks to facilitate government cooperation and public awareness about the dangers of fentanyl, while allocating additional funding to community organizations and coalitions. This bill focuses on promoting substance use awareness among school-aged children and youth to address the rise in use and fatalities impacting young people like Bruce.

- Authorizes an interagency public awareness campaign led by the HHS Secretary on synthetic opioids and substance use.
- Establishes a federal interagency working group under the HHS Secretary to review all federal efforts to reduce overdoses from synthetic opioids and create recommendations on youth-targeted education and overdose responses. The working group would consult with experts at the state, tribal, and local levels, as well as individuals in recovery and family members of people who have experienced an overdose.
- Creates new Community-Based Coalition Enhancement Grants focused on youth-based prevention. This program would allow Drug-Free Communities Coalitions to access new funding specifically to focus on the dangers of drugs containing synthetic opioids.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2790949>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.songforcharlie.org/data>



**Support for *Bruce's Law***

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), Colorado Coalition for Families Affected by Fentanyl (VFAF), Facing Fentanyl, Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse (MAPDA), National HIDTA Directors Association, Partnership to End Addiction, Shatterproof, The Kennedy Forum, and Voices For Awareness Foundation

**Senate Companion:** Led by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)