

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 254

Reps. Thompson, Mueller, Alexander, St. Germaine, Hall, Bierlein and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare May 7-13, 2024, as Fentanyl Awareness  
2 Week in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is 50 to  
4 100 times more potent than morphine, and 30 to 50 times more potent  
5 than heroin. Just two milligrams—the equivalent of a few grains of  
6 salt—is a potentially lethal dose; and

7           Whereas, Fentanyl has been increasingly found mixed with other  
8 drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, and counterfeit pills, contributing  
9 to the current opioid crisis; and

10           Whereas, Most recent cases of fentanyl-related overdose are  
11 linked to illicitly manufactured fentanyl, which is distributed

1 through illegal drug markets for its heroin-like effect. It is  
2 often added to other drugs because of its extreme potency, which  
3 makes drugs cheaper, more powerful, more addictive, and more  
4 dangerous; and

5       Whereas, The Sinaloa and Jalisco cartels are hiding fentanyl  
6 in fake pills that look like prescription medications, such as  
7 oxycodone, Xanax, and Percocet. The cartels are also mixing  
8 fentanyl powder into other drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and  
9 methamphetamine. Many of the people poisoned by fentanyl had no  
10 idea they were even taking it; and

11       Whereas, The cartels, their members, and their associates  
12 continue using social media applications and encrypted  
13 communications platforms to sell pills and powders that are  
14 advertised as legitimate medications or other substances, but  
15 actually contain fentanyl; and

16       Whereas, The Detroit Field Division of the Drug Enforcement  
17 Administration confiscated 1,168 pounds of fentanyl in 2023, 70%  
18 more than it seized the previous year, according to a statement  
19 from federal authorities; and

20       Whereas, Fentanyl has been a significant contributor to the  
21 rise in drug overdose deaths in the State of Michigan and across  
22 the United States; and

23       Whereas, Fentanyl-related deaths in Michigan have surged  
24 dramatically in recent years, there were 2,539 opioid overdose  
25 deaths recorded in Michigan in 2021; and

26       Whereas, The impact of fentanyl on communities in Michigan has  
27 been profound, affecting individuals, families, and neighborhoods  
28 across the state; and

29       Whereas, Raising awareness about the dangers of fentanyl is

1 crucial to combating its spread and preventing further loss of  
2 lives; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
4 this legislative body declare May 7-13, 2024, as Fentanyl Awareness  
5 Week in the State of Michigan. We call this observance to the  
6 attention of all our citizens.