



- TO:** The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
- FR:** The Honorable Tom Ridge and Professor Juliette Kayyem
Senior Advisors, Americans for Securing All Packages
- RE:** President's Commission Must take Immediate Action to Close Global Postal Loophole
Fueling Importation of Deadly Drugs into U.S.

Today, we are pleased to see the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis take further steps to address the crisis devastating communities across our country. As our coalition has stated before, the broad expertise within this task force is a testament to the fact that there is no single solution to this crisis, and it will require a concerted effort to end this epidemic.

As your commission considers how to stop this deadly scourge, we are writing to remind you that no strategy will prove effective unless we disrupt the supply chain bringing dangerous and counterfeit drugs into the U.S. through the global postal system.

Our nation is facing a significant public health crisis and national security challenge. Drugs like fentanyl and carfentanil are easily ordered online and can be shipped directly to Americans' mailboxes. Overdose death rates have risen dramatically and finite resources, particularly at the state and local levels, are being strained by the opioid epidemic. While countless reports have linked America's illicit fentanyl supply to foreign labs, packages continue to stream into the U.S. through the Postal Service every day.

We were pleased to see that the commission's interim report included recommendations to "support federal legislation to staunch the flow of deadly synthetic opioids through the U.S. Postal Service." According to the Department of Homeland Security, every year, more than 340 million packages reach the United States through the U.S. Postal Service without advance security data that would allow law enforcement to identify packages containing hazardous materials, including counterfeit and illegal synthetic drugs.

As the U.S. Postal Service reports a substantial [increase](#) in inbound international mail volume over the past few years, Customs and Border Protection officials are [reportedly](#) unable to keep up with the inflow of international packages shipped from foreign posts due to a lack of data. Foreign posts are not required under current U.S. law to provide advance electronic data on packages shipped through the U.S. Postal Service, while private couriers have been required to provide this information on international shipment since 2002. Officials from [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) and the [U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General](#) have stated that having this security information would help law enforcement screen and intercept dangerous packages entering the U.S. Yet the loophole and opioid pipeline that it enables remain open.

President Trump first acknowledged the importance of closing this loophole as a candidate during a

campaign speech in New Hampshire. And since the establishment of the President's Commission earlier this year, federal agencies, lawmakers and law enforcement officials alike have committed to focusing more and providing additional resources to address the supply chain problems in how synthetic opioids reach our shores. While we applaud President Trump and the President's Commission for drawing attention to this issue, we now need definitive action from Congress and the Administration to close this postal loophole to help keep our communities safe.

As the Commission weighs measures to combat America's opioid epidemic, Americans for Securing All Packages – a coalition of health care advocates, security experts, businesses, first responders, and non-profits – strongly recommends that the U.S. government require foreign posts to submit advance electronic data on all shipments to the United States. We urge the Commission to call on Congress to pass the bipartisan, bicameral Synthetics Trafficking & Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act, which would require foreign posts to provide the same advance electronic data as private carriers. Further, we respectfully request that the Commission take swift action to encourage the Department of Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant agencies within the Trump administration to support the elimination of this loophole once and for all.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the American people and for your diligence in addressing this devastating epidemic and its origins – both at home and abroad.