



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives
Representative Quang Nguyen (R-1)
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Representative Quang Nguyen Sponsors Legislation to Combat Fentanyl Epidemic *“We are in a war to save lives”*

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Quang Nguyen, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has sponsored legislation that aims to combat the fentanyl epidemic and skyrocketing rate of fentanyl-related deaths in Arizona.

“The safety of the people in our state is my top priority,” said Representative Nguyen. **“Fentanyl is killing tens of thousands of Americans each year and destroying families. It’s a public crisis that should unite political parties to act urgently. We are in a war to save lives.”**

[HB 2167](#) significantly strengthen penalties for individuals who knowingly traffic or sell fentanyl-tainted drugs that contribute to a person’s death, giving prosecutors stronger tools in the fight against the deadly illegal narcotic that is killing people at alarming rates. Under the bill, drug trafficking homicide would be a Class 1 felony.

Nguyen’s bill was inspired by the family of Ashley Dunn, a young woman in Yavapai County who tragically lost her life when she consumed fentanyl-tainted narcotics.

Fentanyl is a highly addictive synthetic opioid 50 times more powerful than heroin. Just two milligrams (an amount so small that it would fit on the tip of a pencil) can kill a person.

According to the DEA, fentanyl is mass-produced in Mexico using Chinese-sourced chemicals and trafficked by the Sinaloa and Jalisco crime cartels. The agency has reported a sharp nationwide increase in the lethality of fentanyl-laced pills, which may look identical to real prescription medications.

Quang Nguyen is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 1 in Yavapai County and is Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Follow him on Twitter at @QuangNguyenAZ.

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