



The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

03/11/2026

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of the families we represent across the United States, we write to express our strong support for the **Combating Illicit Xylazine Act (S.545 / H.R.1266)** and respectfully urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance this critical legislation.

We write to you not only as advocates, but as parents who have lived through the unimaginable loss caused by the illicit drug crisis. Andrea Thomas is the Founder and President of **Facing Fentanyl** and Co-Founder **ARMOUR Families**, and Jaime Puerta serves as Co-Chair of Facing Fentanyl and President of **Victims of Illicit Drugs (VOID)**. Together, our organizations represent a growing national coalition of more than **200 organizations and family advocacy groups** committed to preventing the devastation caused by illicit synthetic drugs.

Over the past decade, families across the nation have witnessed the catastrophic consequences of synthetic drugs flooding our communities. These substances are killing people from every background, the unsuspecting, those experimenting, and those seeking relief from pain or addiction. Counterfeit pills and adulterated drugs have turned a single moment of experimentation into a death sentence for tens of thousands of Americans.

Today, a new and deeply troubling threat is emerging: **xylazine**, commonly known as “tranq.” This powerful veterinary sedative is increasingly being mixed with fentanyl and other illicit drugs, compounding the already deadly nature of the synthetic drug crisis. Xylazine severely depresses breathing and heart rate, can cause devastating tissue damage and necrosis, and often leads to amputations and permanent injury among survivors. Perhaps most alarming, **there is**

currently no FDA-approved antidote to reverse the effects of xylazine in humans, making overdoses/poisonings involving this substance particularly difficult to treat.

Families impacted by fentanyl understand all too well how quickly a dangerous substance can spread across the country before meaningful action is taken. We saw it with fentanyl itself. What began as isolated reports quickly evolved into the deadliest drug crisis in American history. We now see similar patterns with the proliferation of xylazine in the illicit drug supply.

This legislation is a critical step toward preventing that history from repeating itself.

The **Combating Illicit Xylazine Act** would provide necessary tools to address this emerging threat by criminalizing the illicit manufacture, distribution, and trafficking of xylazine intended for human consumption, while preserving legitimate veterinary uses. It would also require coordinated federal reporting on the prevalence and supply chains of illicit xylazine, helping policymakers and law enforcement better understand and respond to this rapidly evolving threat.

For families who have already lost loved ones, accountability matters. Holding those who manufacture and distribute these dangerous substances accountable is an essential component of preventing further tragedy. Stronger enforcement tools are necessary to disrupt the networks that continue to profit from substances that are destroying lives and families.

At the same time, this legislation recognizes the importance of understanding emerging drug threats before they spiral into nationwide crises. Early action saves lives. By addressing xylazine now, Congress has an opportunity to prevent the next wave of devastating overdoses/poisonings and deaths that families fear may be on the horizon.

We respectfully urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to move forward with the **Combating Illicit Xylazine Act** and demonstrate the leadership necessary to confront the evolving synthetic drug crisis. Families across the country are counting on Congress to act before this threat grows further.

Thank you for your continued attention to the devastating impact of illicit synthetic drugs on American families. We stand ready to assist the Committee in any way possible and to continue working together to save lives.

Sincerely,

Andrea Thomas
Founder and President
Facing Fentanyl

Jaime Puerta
Co-Chair, Facing Fentanyl
President, Victims of Illicit Drugs (VOID)