



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug in American history. A dose of just two milligrams—barely even visible to the human eye—can end a person’s life, and tragically, five Texans on average lose their lives each day to fentanyl. 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, fentanyl is the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. Every life lost to fentanyl poisoning sends shockwaves through entire communities and devastates families.

Two years ago, the State of Texas launched the “One Pill Kills” campaign to educate Texans on how to prevent, recognize, and reverse fentanyl poisonings. In April 2023, my office brought together families, elected officials, experts, and law enforcement officials for a “One Pill Kills” Summit. The event sparked meaningful conversations about fentanyl, highlighted efforts currently underway from our various state agencies, and underscored the critical role that public awareness plays in combating this national crisis.

Across Texas and the United States, people unknowingly take pills laced with deadly fentanyl and lose their life as a result. In the wake of these tragedies, a grassroots movement led by victims’ families has sought to educate the public about the serious risk of fentanyl and spare Texas families from losing a loved one to this clandestine killer. Joining in the fight to raise awareness, I signed several crucial laws last year to combat this growing crisis in Texas, including House Bill 3908—Tucker’s Law—requiring public schools to provide research-based instruction on fentanyl abuse, prevention, and poisoning awareness to Texas students, grades 6 through 12.

Every student and every parent must know about the dangers of fentanyl. Mexican drug cartels are targeting the future of Texas—particularly our children—by strategically manufacturing and distributing fentanyl disguised as painkillers, stimulants, anti-anxiety drugs, and even candy. Far too many young Texans have been robbed of the promising lives ahead of them because they were unaware that an alleged prescription pill or other substance they took was laced with fentanyl. By teaching young Texans about the scourge of fentanyl, we can protect their lives and their futures.

Grades 6 through 12 are formative years for young Texans, and by arming them with knowledge and support, we will help them realize the vicious, destructive influence fentanyl-laced pills pose to families and communities.

Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week plays a significant role in Texas’ efforts to protect the next generation from this deadly drug. Texas children will receive life-saving lessons about the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl poisoning prevention. Additionally, school administrators and staff will be equipped with emergency response protocols and life-saving opioid poisoning reversal medication, such as NARCAN, that can save countless lives.

There is no challenge that the people of Texas cannot overcome together. As we continue the fight against the fentanyl crisis, education will no doubt be a decisive factor. One pill laced with fentanyl can kill, and I thank my fellow Texans for their ongoing efforts to help shed light on fentanyl in the classroom and at home. During this week, and throughout the year, I encourage Texans of all ages to learn more about fentanyl to help protect our children from this danger. By so doing, we will ensure that our children, our most precious asset, can achieve their dreams.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim the period from October 13 through October 19, 2024, to be

## Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 13th day of October, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".  
Governor of Texas