



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**ASHLEY MOODY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

January 6, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to address your upcoming meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. According to reports, the agenda includes “climate and the environment, migration, diversity and inclusion and increasing North America’s economic competitiveness.”<sup>1</sup> I am deeply concerned, because it does not appear that you plan to discuss the deluge of illicit fentanyl flooding across our border from Mexico or the record number of Americans dying because of your failure to take action and stop the unmitigated flow of this deadly poison.

Fentanyl is now the number one killer of Americans ages 18-45.<sup>2</sup> Last month, the Drug Enforcement Administration announced that their 2022 fentanyl seizures represented more than 379 million potentially deadly doses<sup>3</sup>—enough to kill every man, woman and child in our country. The problem is only getting worse, and that is why you cannot squander this vital opportunity to hold Mexico accountable for its role in this crisis. You must demand that Mexico take drastic measures to interdict these drugs before the cartels smuggle them into the U.S.

This past July, you met with President Obrador and issued a joint statement about creating a new U.S.-Mexico task force to disrupt the flow of fentanyl.<sup>4</sup> Almost five months to the

<sup>1</sup> [thehill.com/homenews/administration/3782103-biden-to-meet-with-leaders-of-mexico-and-canada-in-mexico-city-next-month/](https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/3782103-biden-to-meet-with-leaders-of-mexico-and-canada-in-mexico-city-next-month/)

<sup>2</sup> [www.foxnews.com/us/fentanyl-overdoses-leading-cause-death-adults](https://www.foxnews.com/us/fentanyl-overdoses-leading-cause-death-adults)

<sup>3</sup> [www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/12/20/drug-enforcement-administration-announces-seizure-over-379-million-deadly](https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/12/20/drug-enforcement-administration-announces-seizure-over-379-million-deadly)

<sup>4</sup> [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/07/12/president-biden-and-president-lopez-obrador-joint-statement/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/07/12/president-biden-and-president-lopez-obrador-joint-statement/)

day after that statement, border officials in Arizona announced the seizure of more than 1.5 million fentanyl pills.<sup>5</sup> This is not an isolated incident and it is not hard to imagine how much more of this deadly drug is being smuggled across the border undetected. In November, you failed to discuss China's role in supplying fentanyl precursors to the Mexican cartels when you met with President Xi Jinping.<sup>6</sup> This was a missed opportunity to hold China accountable for the death and destruction caused by the deadly fentanyl poisoning of Americans.

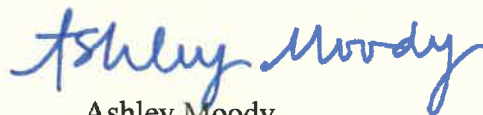
In a press conference Thursday, you stated that you will now add strengthening the border to the agenda when you meet with President Obrador. But before you meet, I demand that you consider all the American families who just endured the holiday season after losing a loved one to a drug overdose—there are thousands of them. Consider these families and commit to demanding accountability from Mexico for not doing more to stop the production and distribution of deadly synthetic drugs.

This crisis has grown beyond local law enforcement interdiction efforts and demands immediate action from U.S. federal and foreign officials. Our first responders, who faithfully protect and serve their communities every day are now at greater risk because of your refusal to address this growing crisis—making their jobs even more dangerous. Last month, a Florida officer was treated for a fentanyl overdose after briefly being exposed while conducting a traffic stop.<sup>7</sup> You expect first responders to protect Americans, yet you are not doing everything within your power to do the same.

This epidemic will only worsen if you continue to allow our border to be vulnerable and controlled by the cartels. With record numbers of illicit drugs, illegal immigrants, and criminals on the terrorist watchlist entering the U.S., our Southwest Border has never been less secure. Last September, your administration provided an additional \$200 million to Mexico and Central America bringing our total humanitarian assistance for that region to more than \$594 million since FY 2018.<sup>8</sup> We cannot afford to keep pouring American resources into a country that is the source and contributor of so many deaths of Americans. The financial faucet should be turned off unless Mexico agrees to stop the flood of fentanyl into our country.

As we ended another extremely deadly year, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announcing record drug overdose deaths and the DEA reporting record fentanyl seizures, it is imperative that you take immediate action. Demand Mexico take strong interdiction efforts to end this deadly fentanyl crisis.

Sincerely,



Ashley Moody  
Florida Attorney General

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<sup>5</sup> [www.foxnews.com/us/arizona-border-officers-seize-million-fentanyl-pills-past-week](http://www.foxnews.com/us/arizona-border-officers-seize-million-fentanyl-pills-past-week)

<sup>6</sup> [www.foxnews.com/media/biden-called-failing-bring-covid-chinas-xi-stand-families](http://www.foxnews.com/media/biden-called-failing-bring-covid-chinas-xi-stand-families)

<sup>7</sup> [www.foxnews.com/media/florida-police-officer-recounts-fentanyl-poisoning-traffic-stop-felt-like-choking](http://www.foxnews.com/media/florida-police-officer-recounts-fentanyl-poisoning-traffic-stop-felt-like-choking)

<sup>8</sup> [www.state.gov/humanitarian-assistance-for-mexico-and-central-america/](http://www.state.gov/humanitarian-assistance-for-mexico-and-central-america/)