



Background on the N.M. Delegation's Work to Tackle the Opioid Crisis

In March 2026, Heinrich [cosponsored](#) the Workplace Overdose Reversal Kits (WORK) to Save Lives Act, bipartisan legislation to help tackle rising rates of opioid overdoses with increased access to overdose reversal medications like naloxone.

In January 2026, Heinrich, as a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, successfully [passed into law](#) language directing the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to develop a comprehensive fentanyl tracking system, which will include documentation of seizure location, chemical composition, probable or known manufacturing location, and probable or known point of entry into the United States. Currently, fentanyl interdiction is compiled at land ports of entry by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), but the DEA does not have readily accessible tracking data on the movement of illicit drugs within the U.S. or their point of origin. Requiring the compilation and organization of that data will complement DHS' work and improve our country's work to effectively combat the fentanyl crisis.

In October 2024, the N.M. Delegation [announced](#) over \$3 million dollars secured from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Tribal communities to serve individuals with opioid use disorder and co-occurring substance use disorders by funding culturally specific and evidence-based treatment, including medication for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD). These HHS [Tribal Opioid Response Grants](#) were awarded through the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#).

Also in October 2025, Heinrich and Luján [sent a letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. laying out how the Department's reckless mass firings during Trump's government shutdown hurt Americans' health and set back federal efforts to tackle the fentanyl and substance use disorder crisis, and address infant and maternal mortality.

In July 2025, Heinrich [announced](#) that his [Halt All Lethal Trafficking of \(HALT\) Fentanyl Act](#) to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances (FRS) as Schedule I drugs, under the Controlled Substances Act, had been signed into law.

In July 2024, Heinrich announced [U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee support](#) for \$1.4 billion for the U.S. Department of State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau to combat the fentanyl crisis.

In June 2024, the N.M. Congressional Delegation announced [\\$9.5 million to combat the fentanyl crisis](#) across the state. This funding came from the Biden-Harris administration's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, which provided New Mexico's law enforcement agencies with tools to keep communities safe from illicit fentanyl and reduce violent crime associated with drug trafficking.

Also in June 2024, the N.M. Delegation [welcomed the U.S. Department Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) selection of New Mexico into the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic \(CCBHC\)](#) Medicaid Demonstration Program. The program provides states with funding to expand access to mental health care and substance use services.

In April 2024, Heinrich [announced](#) the passage of legislation he cosponsored, the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#), into law. The bipartisan legislation targets the fentanyl crisis by wielding our country's economic tools against transnational criminal organizations.

In March 2024, Heinrich welcomed [\\$400 million he fought to pass for U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#) to detect and seize fentanyl at our ports of entry. Heinrich also announced he had [successfully secured substantial federal funding to combat the fentanyl crisis in New Mexico](#), including:

- \$364,000 for the Albuquerque Police Department to purchase equipment to safely identify fentanyl and other illicit substances to increase apprehensions and improve prosecutions.
- \$300,000 for the City of Santa Fe's Mobile Integrated Health Office to provide a team of trauma-informed responders and providers to administer care and navigation services to those experiencing a crisis or behavioral health emergency.
- \$295,000 for Hidalgo, Catron, and Grant Counties to purchase equipment for use by local law enforcement to safely detect fentanyl and other illicit drugs and improve officer and community safety.
- \$194,000 for the Las Cruces Police Department to purchase equipment to safely analyze fentanyl and other illicit narcotics and create a community engagement effort to educate youth on the dangers of illicit drugs.

- \$172,000 for the Silver City Police Department to purchase equipment to safely identify fentanyl and other illicit substances and fund associated training for officers.

Heinrich and Luján also cosponsored the [Stop Fentanyl at the Border Act](#), legislation that will enable CBP to hire more Officers and Border Patrol Agents to increase capacity to stop illicit smuggling over the border.

In February 2024, Heinrich [led a bipartisan letter](#) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the agency to include Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), specifically buprenorphine and methadone, in its List of Essential Medicines. This action would significantly help health care providers address the ongoing opioid epidemic by making these drugs more readily available in medical facilities.

In August 2023, Heinrich announced [24 local projects in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill](#) to improve access to quality health care and help medical providers treat mental health and substance use disorders in New Mexico. Heinrich also [led a letter to the FDA](#), signed by Luján, urging the agency to conduct Tribal consultations and discussions with rural communities to incorporate their feedback prior to finalizing its policy on at-home disposal of prescription opioids. Additionally, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández [announced federal funding for the Santa Fe Recovery Center, Inc. from HHS](#) to combat the opioid epidemic and substance abuse in communities across New Mexico. The funding went toward addiction treatment, recovery services, and overdose prevention.

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