



*The Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force is the voice of the community on issues related to the quality and responsiveness of mental health and substance abuse disorder services.*

## **Advocacy Opportunity: SB-600 Decriminalizing Fentanyl Test Strips (10/12/2021)**

This bill decriminalizes the use of fentanyl testing strips to test a substance for the presence of fentanyl. Under current law, fentanyl testing strips are considered drug paraphernalia, and it is a felony for any person to use or possess with intent to use drug paraphernalia. The bill excepts fentanyl testing strips from the definition of “drug paraphernalia.”

### **Why It’s Important**

Drug overdoses have been increasing at unprecedented rates in recent years and are now a leading cause of death and driver of reduced life expectancy in the USA. Given the unknown purity and content of illicit street drugs and the evidence that many people who use drugs (PWUD) are uncertain of their exposure to fentanyl before use.

A recent study (FORECAST Study, 2018) found that seventy percent of all respondents reported that knowing that their drugs contained fentanyl would lead them to modify their behavior. This could include not using the drugs, using drugs more slowly, using with others who have naloxone, changing purchasing behaviors.

**Introduced by:** Senators [Wanggaard](#), [L. Taylor](#), [Larson](#), [Carpenter](#), [Ringhand](#), [Agard](#), [Cowles](#).  
**Cosponsored by:** Representatives [James](#), [Zimmerman](#), [Ortiz-Velez](#), [Krug](#), [Armstrong](#), [Moses](#), [Cabral-Guevara](#), [Emerson](#), [Milroy](#), [Tittl](#), [Magnafici](#), [Baldeh](#), [Spiros](#), [Plumer](#), [Snodgrass](#), [Dittrich](#), [Summerfield](#), [Drake](#), [Sinicki](#), [Callahan](#), [Billings](#), [Hesselbein](#), [Conley](#), [Subeck](#), [Stubbs](#), [Spreitzer](#), [Considine](#), [Shelton](#), [B. Meyers](#), [Duchow](#), [Allen](#), [Tusler](#), [Mursau](#), [Schraa](#), [Bowen](#), [Horlacher](#), [Knodl](#) and [Cabrera](#)

### **Advocacy Opportunities**

- Write your state legislators to share your view on SB-600. You can find your state legislators contact information by entering your home address in the “Who Are My Legislators” field on the [Wisconsin State Legislature website](#).
- It’s helpful to share a story that explain why the bill is important to you.

### **Sample Message**

I am writing to you as a constituent to ask you to support SB-600, which would decriminalize fentanyl testing strips. In recent years, our state has seen an alarming increase in drug overdose deaths. Fentanyl testing strips are simple and inexpensive and could save lives. (Include a story about why this is important to you.). Thanks for considering my input and I hope to hear from you about your position on SB-600.

*Include your name, home address, and phone number in the email*