

markets and trade partners for the U.S., and fosters good will abroad. Its efforts further America's interests while improving lives in the developing world.

Wesner's presentation was the seventh lecture in the new InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series. Information on upcoming lectures in the series will be available on the Simons Center's website at a later date.

- Simons Center

DHS Secretary calls for greater cooperation

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary John F. Kelly testified to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the subject of border security and public safety on April 5. Kelly remarked on DHS's border security mission and efforts.

In his testimony, Kelly called for greater interagency and international cooperation, saying "Interagency relationships and bilateral cooperation are critical to identifying, monitoring, and countering threats to U.S. national security and regional stability." Kelly went on to say that the challenges faced by DHS in confronting illegal immigration, transnational crime, human trafficking, and other threats to U.S. safety require an "integrated counter-network approach."

Kelly concluded his testimony by reiterating DHS's commitment to border security and his commitment to the committee.

- Department of Homeland Security

Interagency effort needed to combat illicit fentanyl

In February, officials from multiple government agencies met with the House Energy and Commerce Committee to discuss fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.

Among those speaking were Matthew Allen, Assistant Director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations. Allen spoke about the dangers of fentanyl and of ICE's efforts to reduce the supply of heroin and fentanyl in the U.S.

The Heroin Availability Reduction Plan (HARP), developed by the Office of National Drug Control Policy in coordination with federal departments and agencies, reduces the supply of heroin and illicit fentanyl in the U.S. through various means, including supply chain disruption. According to Allen, ICE is targeting supply chain networks and collaborating with both domestic and international partners.

ICE is also part of the Drug Enforcement Agency's interagency Heroin and Fentanyl task force, which focuses on the collaborative authorities and efforts of each invested agency's resources, in order to better share and deconflict information. ICE and the task force are coordinating in several areas related to the combating fentanyl.

In his closing statement, Allen said that "ICE is committed to battling the U.S. heroin and illicit fentanyl crisis through the various efforts I have discussed today," and that "this problem set is an epidemic that demands urgent and immediate action across law enforcement interagency lines.

- Energy and Commerce Committee, House of Representatives