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| A plate with a face on it  Description automatically generated with low confidence | U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell **Washington** |

**Cantwell’s Washington State Fentanyl Roundtable Tour**

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For the past six months, Sen. Cantwell has been traveling across the State of Washington convening roundtable discussions with people on the front lines of the fentanyl crisis. At the roundtables, Sen. Cantwell has heard from local leaders, first responders, health care providers, Tribes, and folks with lived experience of addiction. To ensure participants can speak candidly and comfortably, some of these roundtables have been closed to press; others were open to reporters.

Sen. Cantwell has visited the following communities thus far to discuss the fentanyl epidemic:

**May 23, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell held a closed-door roundtable to discuss fentanyl in [**Pierce County**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-hosts-fentanyl-crisis-roundtable-)**.** The discussion included Colette August, Executive Director of the Tahoma Indian Center.

**June 5, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell convened a closed-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Everett**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-hosts-roundtable-on-fentanyl-crisis-in-everett). The discussion included Snohomish County Executive Director David Somers, who lost his brother to a fentanyl overdose earlier in the year, and Tulalip Tribes Chairwoman, Teri Gobin. Sen. Cantwell held a media availability immediately after the discussion. [**VIDEO**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/imo/media/video/06052023%20Fentanyl%20Roundtable%20Video.mp4)

**July 17, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell hosted an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Tri-Cities.**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-tri-cities-) [**AUDIO**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/07172023-tri-cities-fentanyl-roundtable-audio)

**July 24, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell convened an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**downtown Seattle.**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-seattle)[**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/imo/media/archive/07242023%20Seattle%20Fentanyl%20Roundtable%20Photos3.zip)

**July 31, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell held an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Spokane**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-spokane)**.** The discussion included Toni Lodge, CEO of the NATIVE Project.[**VIDEO**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mL9r1TjK9dgGLB4FtrxxP3HLkfBasE2T?usp=sharing) | [**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/07312023-spokane-fentanyl-roundtable-event-hi-res-photos)

**August 14, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell hosted an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Vancouver, WA.**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-vancouver)The discussion included Emily Gardner, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Behavioral Health Director. [**VIDEO**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08142023-vancouver-fentanyl-roundtable-mc-opening-remarks-video)| [**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08142023-vancouver-fentanyl-roundtable-photos)

**August 17, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell convened an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Port Angeles.**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-port-angeles) The discussion included Molly Martin, Executive Director of the Jamestown Healing Clinic.[**VIDEO OF SEN. CANTWELL**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08172023-port-angeles-fentanyl-roundtable-event-video)| [**VIDEO OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mL9r1TjK9dgGLB4FtrxxP3HLkfBasE2T?usp=drive_link) | [**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08172023-port-angeles-fentanyl-roundtable-event-photos)

**August 23, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell delivered an address at the inagural [**National Tribal Opioid Summit**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/at-national-tribal-opioid-summit-cantwell-delivers-call-to-action-on-fentanyl-crisis) -- a gathering of approximately 900 tribal leaders, health care workers, and first responders from across the country – hosted by the Tulalip Tribe. [**AUDIO**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/imo/media/audio/082323_National_Tribal_Opioid_Summit_Cantwell_Remarks.mp3)|[**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/imo/media/archive/082323%20Cantwell%20Photos%20National%20Tribal%20Opioid%20Summit1.zip)

**August 24, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell held an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Walla Walla.**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-walla-walla)[**VIDEO**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mL9r1TjK9dgGLB4FtrxxP3HLkfBasE2T?usp=sharing) **|** [**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08242023-walla-walla-fentanyl-roundtable-photos)

**August 25, 2023:** Sen. Cantwell hosted an open-door fentanyl roundtable in [**Yakima**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-convenes-fentanyl-roundtable-in-yakima). This discussion included James Shike, Yakama Nation Public Safety Commissioner. [**VIDEO**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08252023-yakima-fentanyl-roundtable-videos) **|** [**PHOTOS**](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/download/08252023-yakima-fentanyl-roundtable-photo-files)

**Legislative Actions:**

On May 15, Sen. Cantwell, chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, led a committee markup of S. 1280, [the TRANQ Research Act,](https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2023/5/commerce-committee-approves-sen-cruz-s-bipartisan-bill-targeting-deadly-new-street-drug-tranq) to help combat the rise in illicit use of xylazine (also known as tranq). The bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to take steps to enhance understanding of xylazine or tranq and other novel synthetic drugs, develop new tests for detection, and establish partnerships with front-line entities that are often the first points of contact with new street drugs. Sen. Cantwell is a cosponsor of that bipartisan bill, and also cosponsored similar bipartisan language to amend a bill that subsequently passed the Senate by unanimous consent in June.

On July 28, the Senate passed the [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/-after-key-fentanyl-legislation-passes-cantwell-speaks-on-senate-floor) as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The bill, which Sen. Cantwell cosponsored, would enhance current law so U.S. government agencies can more effectively disrupt illicit opioid supply chains and penalize those facilitating the trafficking of fentanyl. It also declares international trafficking of fentanyl, and the precursors used to make it a national emergency.

On October 2, Sen. Cantwell [sent a letter](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-calls-for-hearing-on-how-fentanyl-crisis-is-impacting-indian-country) to the leaders of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs requesting that the committee hold an oversight hearing on how to address the fentanyl crisis in Indian Country. Sen. Cantwell is the former Chair of the Indian Affairs Committee and a long-time member.

On November 1, in her role as chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Sen. Cantwell [held a briefing](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-holds-fentanyl-briefing-with-dept-of-homeland-security-ondcp-and-dept-of-commerce-officials) on the role of commerce and transportation in the fentanyl crisis for a bipartisan group of Commerce Committee colleagues. Briefers included representatives from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at the Department of Commerce (DOC).

On November 8, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee held an [oversight hearing](https://www.indian.senate.gov/hearings/oversight-hearing-titled-fentanyl-in-native-communities-native-perspectives-on-addressing-the-growing-crisis/) entitled, “Fentanyl in Native Communities: Native Perspectives on Addressing the Growing Crisis.” Sen. Cantwell [sent a letter](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-calls-for-hearing-on-how-fentanyl-crisis-is-impacting-indian-country) to Senate Indian Affairs leadership asking for this hearing in October. Lummi Nation Chairman Hillaire participated as a witness.

**Federal Funding to Address the Crisis in WA:**

On August 25, the Senator announced nearly $[10.5 million in funding](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/wa-communities-and-tribes-get-23m-in-federal-grants-to-fight-fentanyl-crisis-support-mental-health-conduct-research) for Washington communities and Tribes, including the Yakama Nation and the Seattle Indian Health Board, to combat the fentanyl crisis and improve mental health care services.

On September 1, Sen. Cantwell announced [$625,000 in funding](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/625000-to-wa-to-help-keep-kids-awayfrom-fentanyl-and-other-drugs) to prevent youth substance abuse in the state and over [$2 million](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/fentanyl-crisis-help-coming-to-3-rural-western-wa-counties) for addiction treatment and emergency overdose response programs in three rural western Washington communities.

On November 3, Sen. Cantwell [announced](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/59m-to-western-wa-tribes-counties-cities-for-programs-addressing-substance-abuse) $5.9 million in federal funding for six communities in Western Washington, including the Quinault Indian Nation, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, to help improve local responses to the substance abuse crisis.