

\*\*\*\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

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**Pasquarella for Congress**

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**24th District Candidate Helena Pasquarella denounces Congressman Salud Carbajal's Sponsorship of Disrupt Fentanyl Trafficking Act**

**OJAI, CA**– Dec. 28th - Helena Pasquarella, 24th District House of Representatives contender, denounces the passage by the House and the Senate of the “Disrupt Fentanyl Trafficking Act” which treats the drug crisis as a national security threat warranting the further militarization of the drug crisis in the United States. *“The Central Coast of California has been devastated by the scourge of fentanyl on our streets, with some areas seeing a 700% spike in overdose deaths in recent years. We need an international and all-hands approach to curbing these overdose deaths—and it starts with cutting off the supply before it reaches our communities,”* **Representative Salud Carbajal said.** “

Pasquarella is gravely concerned about the increase in overdose deaths and believes that we must look at the demand for drugs as a primary “problem,” not the supply. “Why are people taking drugs in the first place? People are lost, depressed, anxious, alone, jobless, unhoused, or struggling with addiction. We have a spiritual void in our country that people are trying to fill with drugs,” Pasquarella explained. “People know that 6 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a lethal dose, but they choose to play russian roulette as if they have nothing to live for,” said Pasquarella, a former high school teacher. “They have no purpose in their lives. Society socializes them to care about the superficiality of what shoes they wear, what car they drive, or how many Taylor Swift concerts they have attended; instead of caring about their character and how we, together, can make the world a better place for all,” she added.

Study after study demonstrates that the “War on Drugs” in the 80’s was not an effective policy to eradicate drug use. According to researchers, better treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support are needed. In addition, a stronger social safety net to make people’s lives better and get their basic needs met so there is less poverty, trauma, and hardship and fewer reasons to use drugs. If there is NO demand for the drugs, there will be NO supply.

If elected to the 24th District, Pasquarella would ensure that a majority of federal funding would be directed for long term, user-focused solutions rather than short-sighted supplied-sided factors that utilize military operations to eradicate drug cartels. This type of policy does not end the supply of drugs, but just replaces one cartel with another to meet the need of the never ending demand for drugs.

More information about her platform and campaign can be found at [www.PasquarellaForCongress.com](http://www.PasquarellaForCongress.com).

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