

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

1100 Connecticut Avenue NW ▪ Suite 900 ▪ Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-293-1550 ▪ www.fleoa.org



Representing Members Of:

AGRICULTURE
OIG
Forest Service
COMMERCE
Export Enforcement
OIG
NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement
DEFENSE
Air Force – OSI
Army – CID
Defense Criminal Investigative Service
Naval Criminal Investigative Service
OIG
EDUCATION – OIG
ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
OIG
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CID
OIG
FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION – OIG
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION – OIG
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OIG
Food and Drug Administration
HOMELAND SECURITY
Border Patrol
Coast Guard Investigative Service
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Customs and Border Protection
Federal Air Marshal Service
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Protective Service
U.S. Secret Service
Transportation Security Administration
OIG
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – OIG
INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
OIG
U.S. Park Police
JUSTICE
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Marshals Service
OIG
U.S. Attorney's Office – CI
LABOR – OIG
POSTAL SERVICE
Postal Inspection Service
OIG
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION – OIG
STATE DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
OIG
TRANSPORTATION – OIG
TREASURY
FinCEN
OIG
Internal Revenue Service – CI
TIGTA
U.S. CAPITOL POLICE
U.S. PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES
VETERANS AFFAIRS
OIG
VA Police
RETIRES

NATIONAL OFFICERS
President
NATHAN CATURA
Executive Vice President
LARRY COSME
Vice President – Operations
TIM CHARD
Vice President – Agency Affairs
FRANCIS NEELEY
Vice President – Membership Benefits
WILLIAM HAMPSTEAD
Vice President – Legislative Affairs
DOMINICK STOKES
Executive Director
PATRICK O'CARROLL
Immediate Past President
JON ADLER
Secretary
ENID FEBUS
Treasurer
MADELINE GORRA
Director of Administration
WILLIAM BELLER
National Chapters Director
MARK HEINBACH
National Awards Director
CHRISTINA TWEED
National Recruitment Director
RASHEED TAHIR
Retirement Director
STAN SCHWARTZ
General Counsel
LAWRENCE BERGER
Public Affairs Officers
JASON BRIEFEL

April 14, 2017

The Honorable Ed Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Markey and Representative Donovan:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing you regarding our support for H.R. 1781 – The Comprehensive Fentanyl Control Act of 2017 and the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act, S. 708.

Fentanyl is an extremely dangerous synthetic opioid drug that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine. Opiates contributed to 23,492 deaths by drug overdoses in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During the following year, 2014 to 2015, overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids increased by another 72 percent. Synthetic opioids also pose a lethal risk to first-responders, legal enforcement officers, and shipping handlers: any physical contact with only three grains of salt worth of fentanyl can be fatal to an adult.

Furthermore, the low cost of fentanyl—which can be imported from a Chinese supplier for as little as \$2000—in conjunction with the availability of tableting machines, which are readily available to anyone with little to no oversight, allows traffickers to realize millions of dollars in profit by mass-producing counterfeit pills made of synthetic opioids. Illicit fentanyl manufacturers are able to exploit the drug scheduling system and outpace the authorities. The DEA tracks and schedules modified forms of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Mexico is the primary source for illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States. Distributors in China are the source of the precursor

chemicals used to manufacture the drug and for fentanyl analogs. Fentanyl produced illicitly in Mexico is smuggled across the southwest border of the United States or delivered through mail and express consignment couriers like FedEx or DHL. Fentanyl purchased online from overseas vendors is principally shipped to the United States through the mail or express consignment carriers, often concealed within legitimate goods. Because illicit fentanyl is so powerful — just a few salt-sized grains can kill an adult — small amounts go a long way for drug traffickers. These relatively small and potent amounts — compared to bales of marijuana, for example — make fentanyl difficult and hazardous to detect.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is on the front lines of the battle to detect and interdict illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids being trafficked into the United States from Mexico, China, and elsewhere. CBP has had success interdicting these drugs with hi-tech chemical screening devices, with the support of scientists in CBP laboratories.

The INTERDICT Act gives CBP needed support for these activities. The bill:

- ensures that CBP will have additional portable chemical screening devices available at ports of entry and mail and express consignment facilities, and additional fixed chemical screening devices available in CBP laboratories.
- provides CBP with sufficient resources, personnel, and facilities — including scientists available during all operational hours — to interpret screening test results from the field.
- authorizes — based on CBP guidance — the appropriation of \$15 million for hundreds of new screening devices, laboratory equipment, facilities, and personnel for 24x7 support.

Combined, the additional chemical screening devices, scientists, and other resources will help safeguard CBP field personnel from exposure to fentanyl and other deadly synthetic opioids and narcotics, and prevent their unlawful importation.

Illicit fentanyl being trafficked into the United States poses an increasingly grave threat to the American people. We must give CBP the help it needs to stop fentanyl from getting into the country.

FLEOA appreciates your time and consideration regarding our support for H.R. 1781 – The Comprehensive Fentanyl Control Act of 2017 and the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act, S. 708.

We look forward to standing with these two important bipartisan legislative proposals. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, feel

free to contact Dominick Stokes, FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs at Dominick.stokes@fleoa.org.

Respectfully,

Nathan R. Catura

Nathan R. Catura

National President

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

CC: The Honorable Marco Rubio
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Tom Rooney