



Major County Sheriffs of America

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard

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April 27, 2017

The Honorable Edward Markey
225 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senators Markey, Brown, Capito and Rubio,

As Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) in charge of Government Affairs, I write in strong support of your legislation S. 708, the bipartisan *International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act*. The MCSA is an association of elected sheriffs representing our nation's largest counties.

Ensuring the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has access to additional chemical screening devices and is properly staffed to allow for comprehensive data interpretation are both necessary and important steps in our fight against the opioid epidemic. Interdicting illicit packages – packages containing deadly synthetics like fentanyl, narcotics, and psychoactive substances – is a fundamental building block in our fight to keep our nation safe and free from the ravages of drug abuse.

Sheriffs across the nation have seen an unprecedented rise in drug overdose deaths and each death is tragic and preventable. Despite our positive strides to combat the epidemic through education, public-private take back programs, engagement in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, outfitting our first responders with Narcan, and piloting innovative medicine like Vivitrol, drug poisoning deaths have now outnumbered deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, and homicide.

The MCSA is committed to advancing legislative initiatives that will enhance the safety of our nation and local communities and as such, we are grateful for your leadership in our fight against the opioid epidemic.

Very Respectfully,

Michael J. Bouchard, Sheriff, Oakland County (MI)
Vice President – Government Affairs, Major County Sheriffs of America