



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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April 26, 2017

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our support for the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act (S. 708).

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States, representing 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, that serves to advance the interests of America's rank-and-file law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education.

Fentanyl, particularly illicitly manufactured fentanyl, and other synthetic drugs are having deadly consequences on communities across the country, both big and small. 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 mean fentanyl is difficult and hazardous to detect, making them easy to traffic across the border and a danger to those trying to stop its importation.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is on the front lines of the battle to detect and halt illegal fentanyl and other synthetic drugs being trafficked into the United States. CBP has had success interdicting these drugs with hi-tech chemical screening devices, with the support of scientists in CBP laboratories. However, CBP needs additional resources to continue and expand its ability to stop these dangerous drugs from entering the country. The INTERDICT Act would support the CBP in its efforts by providing for additional chemical screening devices, scientists and other resources to help prevent the illegal importation of these illicit drugs and safeguard CBP field personnel from possible deadly exposure.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director