



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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10 April 2017

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

The Honorable Sherrod C. Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Senators Markey and Brown,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for S. 708, the “International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act.”

Heroin and prescription opiates have created a devastating epidemic across our country, and now these overdoses outnumber gunshot deaths and motor vehicle deaths. This epidemic has worsened with the influx of synthetic opiates like fentanyl into our communities from foreign countries, especially China and Mexico. For example, synthetic fentanyl is cheaper than normal opiates bought on the street and it is 50 times more deadly than heroin.

Our law enforcement officers at the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are on the forefront of stopping the deadly influx of synthetic fentanyl into our communities from these foreign countries. The CBP needs all the resources they can get to stop this devastating flow of drugs into our country.

This legislation will ensure that CBP will have additional portable chemical screening devices at ports of entry, mail and express consignment facilities, and more fixed chemical screening devices at CBP laboratories. The bill will also provide CBP with sufficient resources, personnel, and facilities; including scientists to interpret the screening test results from the field.

With all the additional resources CBP will be better equipped on all fronts to thwart the deadly flow of synthetic opiates across our borders.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for helping fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic and fighting every day to rid our communities of these drugs. If I can be of any additional help to you, please feel free to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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