



April 28, 2017

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

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

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

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

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Dear Senators Markey, Rubio, Brown, and Capito,

Board of Directors

John Rosenthal, Co-Founder and Board Chair
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Mariann Bucina Roca
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Chief Danny Langloss, Dixon IL PD
Chief Scott Allen, East Bridgewater MA PD
Chief Michael Botieri, Plymouth MA PD
Gil Kerlikowske, former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) is a nonprofit organization that trains and supports more than 220 law enforcement agencies that have launched programs that serve as a pre-arrest bridge to treatment. PAARI's focus is on reducing the demand for opiates and increasing access to treatment, but due to the highly dangerous nature of fentanyl, PAARI is pleased to offer its strong support for S.708, the bipartisan INTERDICT Act, which will expand U.S. Customs and Border Protection's ability to use technology to detect fentanyl and other narcotics coming into the United States from abroad and which are causing a public health epidemic in our communities.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with more than 54,000 overdose deaths reported in 2015. Almost 33,000 of those overdose deaths – roughly 60 percent – involved opioids, including prescription opioid pain relievers, heroin, or the synthetic opioid fentanyl. In particular, fentanyl and its analogs are becoming increasingly responsible for these overdose deaths.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more powerful than morphine. It is dangerous and potentially life-threatening to simply touch or accidentally inhale the white powdery substance. Sometimes, unbeknownst to the user, fentanyl is often mixed with heroin or other substances, or formed to resemble prescription opioid pills. Most illicit fentanyl comes to the United States from China and Mexico, delivered through the mail or express consignment carriers, or smuggled across the southwest border of the United States. The INTERDICT Act will help the United States better identify and stop these dangerous substances from landing in communities across America.

We thank Senator Markey for introducing the INTERDICT Act and Senators Rubio, Brown, and Capito for lending their support to it as original cosponsors. PAARI strongly supports this important legislation, which will give U.S. Customs and Border Protection the additional resources it needs to fight the flow of fentanyl and other deadly drugs into the United States.

Sincerely,

John E. Rosenthal
Co-Founder and Chairman
Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative Board of Directors