



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON
Executive Director and CEO

April 6, 2017

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Markey and Senator Brown:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to you today in support of legislation you intend to introduce, the *International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT) Act (S. 708)*. This bill addresses U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CPB) ability to detect and stop illicit substances from being trafficked into the United States.

As you know, 2015 had the highest number of drug overdoses to date in what is now considered a major public health crisis; many of these deaths were a result of the synthetic opioid fentanyl, which can be so powerful that even an amount equal to a few grains of salt can be deadly. Your bill would aid CBP's role in halting illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids from entering the United States from countries like Mexico and China. Furthermore, your bill would protect the safety of CBP officers from exposure to these deadly synthetic opioids. By sponsoring this bill, you are acknowledging this great threat to public safety.

In closing, I thank you both for your tireless work on behalf of the American public and the officers who serve them. I look forward to working with you to pass the *INTERDICT Act (S. 708)* and working with you on many other important issues in the 115th Congress. If I can be any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan F. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jonathan F. Thompson