



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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24 May 2018

The Honorable Conor J. Lamb
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lamb,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill, H.R. 5871, the “Providing Officers with Electronic Resources (POWER) Act.”

Heroin and prescription opiates have created a devastating epidemic across our country, and now these overdoses outnumber deaths from gunfire and motor vehicles. 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 is 50 times deadlier than heroin.

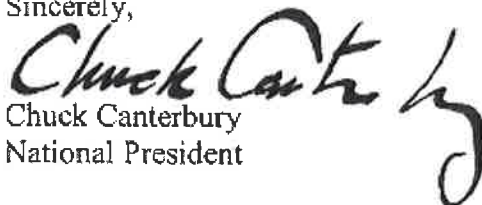
Our State and local law enforcement officers are on the forefront of stopping the deadly influx of synthetic fentanyl into their communities, which have been ravaged by this epidemic. We need all the resources we can get to stop the devastating flow of drugs.

Your legislation will establish a grant program within the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist State and local law enforcement in obtaining portable chemical screening devices to identify the substances they encounter daily. This equipment is necessary in stopping these deadly drugs before it hits our streets and takes more lives.

With this additional resource our officers will be better equipped on all fronts to thwart the deadly flow of synthetic drugs into our neighborhoods.

On behalf of the more than 335,000 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