



**NATIONAL  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

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**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

29 March 2019

The Honorable Sherrod C. Brown  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert J. Portman  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Portman,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill, S. 954, 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, particularly China and Mexico. For example, synthetic fentanyl is cheaper than normal opiates bought on the street and is 50 times deadlier than heroin. In 2016, 175 Americans died from a drug overdose, and in Fiscal Year 2017, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement took more than 2,300 pounds of fentanyl off the streets. We can and must do better; but to do so, we need access to both tools and technology.

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 they hit our streets and take more lives.

Law enforcement and other first responders are overdosing in increasing numbers by accidentally being exposed to drugs they could not or did not identify. With these portable screening devices, our officers will be able to more accurately ascertain the nature of the threats posed by any unknown substances they encounter.

On behalf of the more than 345,000 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 executive director, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck Canterbury  
National President

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