



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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13 December 2017

The Honorable Gregory P. Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank J. Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman and Representative Pallone,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to urge the Committee to favorably report H.R. 2851, the "Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues (SITSA) Act," was favorably reported by the Committee on the Judiciary.

The abuse of synthetic drugs has become a major problem, with increased reports from every region of the country indicating that individuals are committing violent acts while under the influence of these drugs. Many of these drugs induce elevated heart rates, increased blood pressure, and higher body temperature. They can also trigger seizures, hallucinations, and highly agitated states, which make them very dangerous not just to the user but also for those around them.

According to testimony from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in the previous Congress, Poison Control has seen a 229% spike in calls in relation to synthetic drugs. Hundreds of these synthetic drugs are manufactured overseas in China with no regulation or medical purpose. There have also been reports of 49,000 new chemicals used in the manufacture of these synthetic drugs. This is costing children and teenagers their lives. Also, these synthetics are designed to keep law enforcement from finding the origin of the chemicals. The DEA says they are "three steps behind" the criminals when it comes to synthetics and analogues.

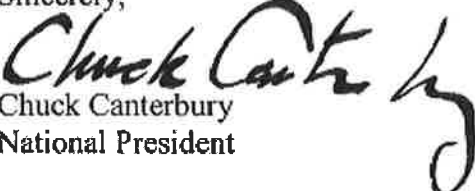
In the previous Congress, the FOP supported legislation to schedule synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and other synthetic drugs as controlled substances but chemical manufacturers have found loopholes in the current law. Under the current statute, the DEA can prosecute the sale and distribution of these drugs or "analogue" drugs—which are similar, but not chemically identical to the scheduled substances. The loophole these manufacturers are exploiting is that the law on analogue drug sales and distribution does not include any substance "not intended for human consumption." By identifying their products in this way, prosecutions have been made incredibly difficult even though manufacturers, distributors, and sellers and abusers of these substances all know exactly what to do with them—ingest them or snort them to get a dangerous and unpredictable high.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

The legislation pending before the Committee will modernize the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) by adding Schedule A to the existing 5 schedules in the CSA. It will establish a mechanism by which synthetic analogues can be temporarily and/or permanently added to Schedule A by the Attorney General, similar to how anabolic steroids are now added to Schedule III. Temporary scheduling may occur for up to 5 years.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your consideration of our views on this issue. I look forward to working with you and your staffs to get this bill through Congress and give the DEA the tools they need to combat the abuse of synthetic drugs. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor, Jim Pasco, in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President