



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 September 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Margaret C. Hassan
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Grassley and Hassan,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 5056, the "Stop the Importation and Manufacturing of Synthetic Analogues (SIMSA) Act."

Existing laws prohibit the unauthorized use of certain specific controlled substances. However, illicit drug-makers and importers are circumventing these laws by slightly altering the molecular structure of an illicit drug to synthesize a new, yet significantly similar substance, which is not specifically illegal. This allows them to make, market, and move substances that are intended to have the same potentially deadly effect as controlled drugs prohibited by existing law. Hundreds of these synthetic drugs, specifically designed to evade the law, are manufactured overseas in China without regulation or any lawful medical purpose. This is costing children and teenagers their lives.

Under the current drug scheduling system, uncontrolled substances must first be subject to a time-consuming analysis before being permanently regulated or prohibited. To fight the rapid spread of deadly synthetic drugs—which can quickly be re-engineered to circumvent Federal laws designed to prohibit them—this legislation is designed to help law enforcement more rapidly respond to the fast-paced modification of synthetic drugs such as analogues to fentanyl.

By modernizing the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), this legislation will add a Schedule A to the existing five schedules of the CSA. It will establish a mechanism by which synthetic analogues can be temporarily added to Schedule A by the U.S. Attorney General if the substance meets the criteria and if scheduling the substance will assist in preventing abuse. Prior to issuance, the Attorney General shall notify the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and take into consideration any comments submitted by the Secretary. Temporary scheduling may occur for up to five years.

On behalf of the more than 377,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, thank you for your leadership on this issue. If I can provide any additional information in support of this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Oleta Davis, State President, Iowa State Lodge
Don Strong, National Trustee, Iowa State Lodge