



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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PATRICK YOES
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25 February 2025

The Honorable James V. Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable August L. Pfluger
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Panetta and Pfluger,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 1266, the "Combating Illicit Xylazine Act."

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a public safety alert warning of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer. Xylazine, also known as "tranq" or "tranq dope," is a powerful sedative that is approved only for veterinary use but it has been increasingly used as a low-cost cutting agent for fentanyl. The DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of the 50 States and, according to their Laboratory System, approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA in 2022 contained xylazine.

The use of xylazine mixed with fentanyl is making the deadliest drug crisis our country has ever faced even worse because xylazine is not an opioid and its effects cannot be reversed by naloxone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported that 107,735 Americans died from drug poisonings between August 2021 and August 2022, and 66% of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Your legislation will take the appropriate steps to address this crisis by adding xylazine to the Controlled Substances Act, listing it as a Schedule III drug for illicit use. The bill would allow ranchers and large animal veterinarians access to xylazine as its use is a critical part of their work, while at the same time allowing the DEA and other law enforcement agencies to track and combat its illegal use as a street drug.

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

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Roger Hilton, President, California State Lodge
Matt Heady, National Trustee, California State Lodge
Clint McNear, President, Texas State Lodge
Frank Plowick, National Trustee, Texas State Lodge