



May 13, 2024

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing an absolute majority of our nation's federal, state, and local law enforcement community, write to express our strong support for the HALT Fentanyl Act, and urge the Senate to consider this crucial legislation expeditiously.

The number of drug poisoning deaths involving fentanyl has surged in recent years. According to the DEA's recently released 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment, fentanyl manufactured by the Mexican cartels is the main driver behind the ongoing epidemic of drug poisoning deaths in the United States. In 2022, 68 percent (74,225) of all drug poisoning deaths were caused by synthetic opioids, primarily fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances. To combat this scourge, in February of 2018 DEA scheduled all illicit fentanyl analogues into Schedule I under its emergency authority. Six years later, Congress continues to drag its feet on giving the DEA this scheduling authority permanently.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is an important piece of legislation which has already passed the House of Representatives. This bill places fentanyl-related substances as a class into schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Additionally, the bill ensures that important research into fentanyl-related substances is not hindered by establishing a new, alternative registration process for schedule I research.

We applaud your leadership and support for the HALT Fentanyl Act. It is tragic to witness the devastating effect the opioid epidemic is having on our communities. Tragically, every day that we continue to debate how to tackle the opioid problem, around 200 more Americans lose their lives due to drug poisoning.

As we mark this year's National Police Week, honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty as well as those who continue to serve and protect our communities, we urge all Senators to support the HALT Fentanyl Act to help keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
National HIDTA Directors Association (NHDA)
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD