



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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October 30, 2019

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Executive Director and

General Counsel

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 241,000 law enforcement officers across the United States, I am writing to you to express our support for the Stop the Importation and Manufacturing of Synthetic Analogues (SIMSA) Act of 2019.

Illegal drug traffickers and importers can circumvent the current scheduling of drugs by minutely changing the formula of a synthetic drug, creating a new substance that is technically lawful, but still highly dangerous and deadly. The SIMSA Act would create an additional schedule – Schedule A – to the Controlled Substances Act to address substances that are significantly similar in chemical composition to and just as addictive and unsafe to the human body as already controlled substances. It would also allow the Attorney General to temporarily or permanently add a drug that meets certain criteria to Schedule A, allowing the government to quickly respond and control these synthetic analogues.

This nation is experiencing a significant drug crisis, which threatens the future of our youth and our country as a whole. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, more than 70,200 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017 and opioids were involved in over 47,600 of those deaths. Many of these deaths were from using synthetic analogues of fentanyl. By allowing these drugs to be quickly added to the Controlled Substances Act and establishing penalties for illegally importing and exporting a Schedule A substance, the SIMSA Act would significantly help law enforcement in their efforts to stop the trafficking and importation of these drugs into the country.

Another key component to law enforcement's fight against opioids entering our communities is increased penalties for domestic trafficking of fentanyl and synthetic analogues. While the SIMSA Act does not address this, we look forward to working with you to ensure law enforcement is given every tool available to deter and address the spread of this epidemic.

NAPO stands ready to support any efforts necessary to pass this legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director