



July 1, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone,

Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA) are writing to express our opposition to legislation legalizing the importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries. BSSA is a statewide organization representing all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs and WS&DSA is a statewide organization representing over 1,000 members, including Sheriffs, Deputies. BSSA and WS&DSA have a joint legislative committee and work closely on public safety issues of concern to our members. BSSA/WS&DSA submit this letter as a follow-up to the resolutions of the National Sheriffs' Association' and the International Association of Chiefs of Police" opposing drug importation.

Proposals to legalize importing foreign prescription drugs would jeopardize the safety of the public and law enforcement officers by opening the drug supply in the U.S. to dangerous counterfeit drugs. A recent report<sup>1</sup> found that law enforcement would have difficulty keeping up with an increased flow of pharmaceutical products across U.S. borders, increasing the incentive and likelihood for trafficking counterfeit drugs. U.S. law enforcement and regulators would no longer be able to ensure a safe prescription drug supply.

Imported counterfeit drugs are already taking a toll on communities in Wisconsin and across the U.S. In Wisconsin, 926 people died from drug overdoses in 2017. Nearly half of those cases involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.<sup>1V</sup> An influx of this dangerous drug coming into our country and into Wisconsin would only increase the number of overdose related deaths.

Furthermore, an influx of counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl provides a significant threat to law enforcement officers. Exposure to even minimal amounts of fentanyl can be deadly for law enforcement who are responding to emergency calls. Opening trafficking channels by legalizing imported drugs would put law enforcement officers at a higher risk of coming into contact with this lethal substance.

Law enforcement in Wisconsin and across the country are already expending significant resources responding to the opioid epidemic. Prescription drug importation might lower prescription drug costs for some consumers, but these costs would be shifted to law enforcement. Additional resources would need

to be extended to protect the public, respond to increased emergency calls, and protect officers from fentanyl exposure, among other costs. Increased counterfeit prescription drugs would only add to our already overburdened law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin and across the U.S.

Legalizing prescription drug imports would amplify the opioid epidemic, put law enforcement officers in danger, and further burden already overextended law enforcement agencies. Therefore, BSSA/WS&DSA respectfully requests you oppose any proposals to legalize importing prescription drugs.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Mark Podoll, Sheriff, Green Lake County (WI)  
President, Badger State Sheriffs' Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Klatt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Captain Jeff Klatt  
St. Croix County Wisconsin  
Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association  
Legislative Committee Chair

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<sup>i</sup> National Sheriffs' Association. (2017, June). National Sheriffs' Association opposes drug importation legislation which jeopardizes law enforcement's ability to protect the public health and endangers the safety of law enforcement and other first responders. Retrieved August 6, 2018, from <https://www.sheriffs.org/sites/default/files/Resolution%202017%20-%20207%20Drug%20Importation%20June%202017.pdf> <sup>ii</sup>  
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<sup>iv</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse (revised March 2019) <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/wisconsin-opioidsummary>





July 1, 2019

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Walden,

Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA) are writing to express our opposition to legislation legalizing the importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries. BSSA is a statewide organization representing all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs and WS&DSA is a statewide organization representing over 1,000 members, including Sheriffs, Deputies. BSSA and WS&DSA have a joint legislative committee and work closely on public safety issues of concern to our members. BSSA/WS&DSA submit this letter as a follow-up to the resolutions of the National Sheriffs' Association' and the International Association of Chiefs of Police" opposing drug importation.

Proposals to legalize importing foreign prescription drugs would jeopardize the safety of the public and law enforcement officers by opening the drug supply in the U.S. to dangerous counterfeit drugs. A recent report<sup>1</sup> found that law enforcement would have difficulty keeping up with an increased flow of pharmaceutical products across U.S. borders, increasing the incentive and likelihood for trafficking counterfeit drugs. U.S. law enforcement and regulators would no longer be able to ensure a safe prescription drug supply.

Imported counterfeit drugs are already taking a toll on communities in Wisconsin and across the U.S. In Wisconsin, 926 people died from drug overdoses in 2017. Nearly half of those cases involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.<sup>1V</sup> An influx of this dangerous drug coming into our country and into Wisconsin would only increase the number of overdose related deaths.

Furthermore, an influx of counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl provides a significant threat to law enforcement officers. Exposure to even minimal amounts of fentanyl can be deadly for law enforcement who are responding to emergency calls. Opening trafficking channels by legalizing imported drugs would put law enforcement officers at a higher risk of coming into contact with this lethal substance.

Law enforcement in Wisconsin and across the country are already expending significant resources responding to the opioid epidemic. Prescription drug importation might lower prescription drug costs for some consumers, but these costs would be shifted to law enforcement. Additional resources would need

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Legalizing prescription drug imports would amplify the opioid epidemic, put law enforcement officers in danger, and further burden already overextended law enforcement agencies. Therefore, BSSA/WS&DSA respectfully requests you oppose any proposals to legalize importing prescription drugs.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Mark Podoll, Sheriff, Green Lake County (WI)  
President, Badger State Sheriffs' Association



Captain Jeff Klatt  
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Legislative Committee Chair

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July 1, 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Murray,

Badger State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) and Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association (WS&DSA) are writing to express our opposition to legislation legalizing the importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries. BSSA is a statewide organization representing all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs and WS&DSA is a statewide organization representing over 1,000 members, including Sheriffs, Deputies. BSSA and WS&DSA have a joint legislative committee and work closely on public safety issues of concern to our members. BSSA/WS&DSA submit this letter as a follow-up to the resolutions of the National Sheriffs' Association' and the International Association of Chiefs of Police" opposing drug importation.

Proposals to legalize importing foreign prescription drugs would jeopardize the safety of the public and law enforcement officers by opening the drug supply in the U.S. to dangerous counterfeit drugs. A recent report<sup>1</sup> found that law enforcement would have difficulty keeping up with an increased flow of pharmaceutical products across U.S. borders, increasing the incentive and likelihood for trafficking counterfeit drugs. U.S. law enforcement and regulators would no longer be able to ensure a safe prescription drug supply.

Imported counterfeit drugs are already taking a toll on communities in Wisconsin and across the U.S. In Wisconsin, 926 people died from drug overdoses in 2017. Nearly half of those cases involved synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.<sup>iv</sup> An influx of this dangerous drug coming into our country and into Wisconsin would only increase the number of overdose related deaths.

Furthermore, an influx of counterfeit drugs containing fentanyl provides a significant threat to law enforcement officers. Exposure to even minimal amounts of fentanyl can be deadly for law enforcement who are responding to emergency calls. Opening trafficking channels by legalizing imported drugs would put law enforcement officers at a higher risk of coming into contact with this lethal substance.

Law enforcement in Wisconsin and across the country are already expending significant resources responding to the opioid epidemic. Prescription drug importation might lower prescription drug costs for some consumers, but these costs would be shifted to law enforcement. Additional resources would need



to be extended to protect the public, respond to increased emergency calls, and protect officers from fentanyl exposure, among other costs. Increased counterfeit prescription drugs would only add to our already overburdened law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin and across the U.S.

Legalizing prescription drug imports would amplify the opioid epidemic, put law enforcement officers in danger, and further burden already overextended law enforcement agencies. Therefore, BSSA/WS&DSA respectfully requests you oppose any proposals to legalize importing prescription drugs.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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Captain Jeff Klatt  
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July 1, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander,

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July 1, 2019

The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin,

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July 1, 2019

The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson,

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