



## **NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION**

*455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001*

*www.nnoac.com*

June 1, 2022

Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

I write to you today on behalf of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), our 40 state narcotic officers associations members, and our thousands of drug law enforcement officers across the nation to voice our opposition to legislative proposals that will allow the importation of unapproved, counterfeit foreign prescription drugs into the United States.

Counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, are having a devastating impact on the United States and they are a major contributor to the thousands of drug deaths our Country is currently experiencing. We believe that continuing to allow importation of these dangerous drugs will further weaken our borders, while also increasing the amount of substandard, adulterated, and counterfeit prescription drugs entering the United States, fueling criminal enterprises, and worsening the opioid crisis in our country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how easily criminals will exploit any opportunities, weaknesses, or lack of genuine supply. Criminals and criminal organizations illegally imported millions of fake COVID-19 testing kits, treatments, vaccines, and cures, as well as fake PPEs.<sup>i</sup> The staggering amounts of illegal, illicit, and counterfeit medicines and medical supplies seized by Homeland Security Investigations' "Operation Stolen Promise" highlight the constant threat of illegal imports to Americans.

But most concerning to us at the NNOAC and the thousands of narcotics officers we represent are the millions of counterfeit pills made with fentanyl that are already streaming across our borders, and that are being seized in record numbers in communities across our nation. The impact of these fake pills has been devastating. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in counterfeit pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths."<sup>ii</sup> As a result, the United States for the first time experienced more than 100,000 drug overdose in the most recent 12-month reporting period, the most ever recorded.<sup>iii</sup> In response to the surge of counterfeit pills, the DEA issued a Public Safety Alert in late 2021, developed a Public Awareness Campaign and initiated several special enforcement operations seizing 20.4 million fake prescription pills in 2021 alone.<sup>iv</sup>

Given the challenges the United States is already facing, we believe it is wrong to further burden border security or to increase drug abuse and addiction by allowing the importation of counterfeit, illegal drugs from foreign countries, especially when our country's focus needs to be on securing our borders, lowering crime rates, combatting drug trafficking, and eliminating counterfeit pills that endanger our citizens. ***We respectfully urge you to reject any amendment to the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) in S.4348, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Landmark Advancements Act (FDASLA), that will increase the potential for more Americans to become harmed, addicted, or even killed by foreign-produced and marketed illegal drugs.***

Respectfully,



Bob Bushman  
President  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

Cc: Senator Mike Braun, IN  
Senator Rand Paul, KY  
Senator Susan Collins, ME  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, AK  
Senator Richard Burr, NC  
Senator Tommy Tuberville, AL  
Senator Jerry Moran, KS  
Senator Bill Cassidy, LA  
Senator Tim Scott, SC  
Senator Mitt Romney, UT  
Senator Rob Portman, OH  
Senator Roger Marshall, KS  
Senator Patty Murray, WA  
Senator John Hickenlooper, CO  
Senator Jacky Rosen, NV  
Senator Ben Ray Lujan, NM  
Senator Bob Casey, PA

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<sup>i</sup> United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (as of February 26, 2021). *Operation Stolen Promise 2.0*. Retrieved from <https://www.ice.gov/topics/operation-stolen-promise>; also U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (February 17, 2021). *DHS prevents millions of counterfeit N95 masks from reaching hospital workers, first responders*. Retrieved from <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/dhs-prevents-millions-counterfeit-n95-masks-reaching-hospital-workers-first>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/DEA-OPCK\\_FactSheet\\_December\\_2021.pdf](https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/DEA-OPCK_FactSheet_December_2021.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> CDC, "Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually". Retrieved from [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs\\_press\\_releases/2021/20211117.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm)

<sup>iv</sup> DEA, "DEA Issues Public Safety Alert on Sharp Increase in Fake Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyl and Meth". Retrieved from <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2021/09/27/dea-issues-public-safety-alert>; also "One Pill Can Kill". Retrieved from <https://www.dea.gov/onepill> and <https://www.dea.gov/onepill-toolbox>; also "DEA Reveals Criminal Drug Networks Are Flooding the U.S. with Deadly Fentanyl. DEA Seizes Enough Fentanyl in 2021 to Provide A Lethal Dose to Every American". Retrieved from <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2021/12/16/dea-reveals-criminal-drug-networks-are-flooding-us-deadly-fentanyl>