



**November 5, 2018**

**NEVADA SHERIFFS' & CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION  
OPPOSES LEGISLATION ON DRUG IMPORTATION**

**WHEREAS**, the number of unintentional overdose deaths from America's opioids crisis has drastically risen to an estimated 63,600 drug overdose deaths in 2016<sup>i</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of opioid-related deaths from synthetic opioids was 19,413 in 2016<sup>ii</sup>, and the CDC has reported that the trend has extended into 2017, with more than 27,000 opioid overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids in 2017;<sup>iii</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the number of opioid-related overdoses in Nevada was 408 in 2016;<sup>iv</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the DEA has seen a sharp increase in incidents of death and overdose from counterfeit prescription drugs containing fentanyl reaching the United States through Canada and Mexico;<sup>v</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement throughout Nevada have seen fentanyl in counterfeit prescription opioid medications<sup>vi,vii</sup>, as well as cancer medicines with deadly results;<sup>viii</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, even exposure to minimal amounts (approximately 2 -3 milligrams) of fentanyl can endanger the health and safety of law enforcement officers, their K-9 companions and other first responders, as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has repeatedly warned and publicized;<sup>ix</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada has seen an 56% increase in synthetic opioids, including fentanyl-related overdose deaths from 2015 to 2016;<sup>x</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of Emergency Room admissions due to an opioid increased by 136% and the rate of inpatient admissions rose by 84% from 2010-2016;<sup>xi</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, former FBI Director Louis Freeh concluded in his report that drug importation proposals would open the U.S. drug supply to illegitimate products, adulterated and counterfeit drugs;<sup>xii</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, drug importation would worsen the opioid crisis, jeopardize the integrity and safety of the pharmaceutical supply chain in the United States, further burden law enforcement and endanger law enforcement officer and first responder safety;<sup>xiii</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association is concerned with the well-being of both law enforcement and citizens of Nevada;

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association is concerned by the financial impact of opioid misuse in the state, including increasing emergency room visits and inpatient admissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association is concerned about the safety of law enforcement officers, their K-9 companions and first responder personnel; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association opposes the passage of legislative drug importation proposals, which if implemented, would worsen the opioid crisis, jeopardize law enforcement's ability to protect the public health, threaten the safety of our drug supply and endanger the safety of law enforcement officers, their K-9 companions and first responders across America.

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<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999-2016. (December 2017). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db294.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Seth et al. (2018). Quantifying the Epidemic of Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths. American Journal of Public Health, 108 (4), 500-502.

<sup>iii</sup> CDC Health Alert July 10, 2018, available at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00413.asp>

<sup>iv</sup> Nevada Opioid Summary. Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths. (February 2018). <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-summaries-by-state/nevada-opioid-summary>

<sup>v</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "Counterfeit Prescription Pills Containing Fentanyl: A Global Threat" (July 2016) available at <https://www.dea.gov/docs/Counterfeit%20Prescription%20Pills.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> "Dangerous pills showing up in Washoe County". (May 12, 2016). <http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Laced-pills-showing-up-in-Washoe-County-379287271.html>

<sup>vii</sup> "Yolo County reports second death from illicit fentanyl painkillers" (April 20, 2016) <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/health-and-medicine/article72969272.html>

<sup>viii</sup> Oliver, M.J. "Overdose warning: Bad batches of street drugs turning up in Yakima". (2017, 10 Nov). Yakima Herald. Available at [https://www.yakimaherald.com/free\\_article/overdose-warning-bad-batches-of-street-drugs-turning-up-in/article\\_ff3e8e26-c518-11e7-a676-576dd98029c8.html](https://www.yakimaherald.com/free_article/overdose-warning-bad-batches-of-street-drugs-turning-up-in/article_ff3e8e26-c518-11e7-a676-576dd98029c8.html)

<sup>ix</sup> DEA Public Affairs Press Release "DEA warns local law enforcement and first responders about the dangers of fentanyl exposure", (June 2016). Available at <https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq061016.shtml>; DEA PSA video Available for download at <https://www.dea.gov/druginfo/fentanyl.shtml>

<sup>x</sup> Ndiaye, M. "Fentanyl Overdose Deaths in Washington State." (2017). Washington State Department of Health. Retrieved from <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/DOHFentanylReport2017Final.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> The Scope of Opioid Use in Nevada, 2016. Department of Public and Behavioral Health. Retrieved from

<http://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhgov/content/Resources/opioids/Opioid%20Infographic.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup> Businesswire, "Investigation by Former FBI Director Louis Freeh Finds Congressional Drug Importation Proposals Would Pose Significant Threats". June 6, 2017. Available at <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170606005891/en/Investigation-FBI-Director-Louis-Freeh-Finds-Congressional>

<sup>xiii</sup> Freeh, Sporkin, and Sullivan LLC, Freeh Group International Solutions LLC. Report on Potential Impact of Drug Importation Proposals on U.S. Law enforcement. June 2017. Available at [https://storage.googleapis.com/m1738/20170605\\_Report%20on%20Counterfeit%20Drugs.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/m1738/20170605_Report%20on%20Counterfeit%20Drugs.pdf)