



February 24, 2022

**NEVADA SHERIFFS' & CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION URGES ELECTED LEADERS
TO ADDRESS COUNTERFEIT PILLS AND NOT FURTHER WEAKEN OUR
BORDER THROUGH FOREIGN DRUG IMPORTATION**

WHEREAS, the Nevada Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Association (NVSCA) are on the frontlines of combatting crime in their communities and are responsible for the safety and well-being of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the NVSCA, its members and its Federal Law Enforcement Partners have noticed an increase in counterfeit prescription drug interdictions and incidences of counterfeit prescription opioid medications with often deadly results;^{i,ii,iii,iv} and

WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has warned that "Criminal drug networks are mass-producing fake pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the American public."^v

WHEREAS, the DEA has seized over 20 million fake pills laced with fentanyl in 2021 and DEA lab testing reveals that 4 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.^{vi}

WHEREAS, the number of unintentional overdose deaths from America's opioids crisis has drastically risen to an estimated 100,000 drug overdose deaths in 2021^{vii}; and

WHEREAS, the number of opioid-related deaths from synthetic opioids was 62,136 by December 5, 2021^{viii}, and the CDC reporting that the trend will extended into 2022, with more than 64,000 opioid overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids expected by the end of 2021^{ix}; and

WHEREAS, the number of opioid-related overdoses in Nevada was 962 between June 2020-May 2021^x; and Nevada has seen an 53% increase in overdose deaths linked to synthetic opioids, including fentanyl-related overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021^{xi}; and

WHEREAS, the DEA has advised that "(t)he only safe medications are ones that come from licensed and accredited medical professionals" and "that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially lethal."^{xii}

WHEREAS, former FBI Director Louis Freeh concluded in his report that foreign drug importation proposals from unlicensed pharmacies would open the U.S. drug supply to illegitimate products, adulterated and counterfeit drugs^{xiii}; and

WHEREAS; drug importation will likely become another loophole for criminals to exploit, importing drugs that are substandard, adulterated, misbranded, and even counterfeit;^{xiv} and

WHEREAS; if these drugs are not intercepted, they will become an interior enforcement issue for state and local law enforcement and endanger patient safety and law enforcement; and

WHEREAS; no drug importation policy provides any additional resources to state or local law enforcement, which will be detrimental particularly to our rural communities; and

WHEREAS; drug importation would further worsen the opioid crisis, open up the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain to adulterated and counterfeit drugs, further burden law enforcement, and endanger the health and safety of Nevadans;

THEREFORE; the NVSCA agrees that drug importation is ill-conceived and will further exacerbate drug trafficking in our country; and

FURTHERMORE; the membership of the NVSCA urges elected leaders to not endanger our citizens and law enforcement through foreign drug importation, while looking for meaningful legislation to address drug pricing; and

FURTHERMORE; the NVSCA cannot support any policy with such a public health and public safety risk, especially when the focus of government activity needs to be to secure the border, combat drug trafficking and eliminate counterfeit pills that endanger our citizens; and it is therefore

RESOLVED, that the NVSCA calls on Congressional leaders to combat the proliferation of counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl by securing the border, providing resources for law enforcement, and strengthening laws against counterfeit drugs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NVSCA will continue to oppose any legislation, regulation, or administrative action that would worsen the issue of counterfeit prescription drugs by weakening our borders or legalizing the foreign drug importation.

ⁱ NBC News 4, “Addicted Nevada: Criminal networks market fake pills as prescription medicine, accessed at <https://mynews4.com/news/addicted-nv/addicted-nevada-criminal-networks-market-fake-pills-as-prescription-medicine> and 13 KTN Las Vegas, “Approximately 50K counterfeit oxycodone pills seized in Las Vegas”, accessed at <https://www.ktnv.com/news/crime/approximately-50k-counterfeit-oxycodone-pills-seized-in-las-vegas>

ⁱⁱ “DEA Finds Fake Oxycodone Pills in Vegas Laced With Fentanyl”. (Feb. 19, 2021). <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/nevada/articles/2021-02-19/dea-finds-fake-oxycodone-pills-in-vegas-laced-with-fentanyl>

ⁱⁱⁱ Wolford, Steve. “DEA warns of counterfeit pills in Southern Nevada”. (March 31, 2021). <https://news3lv.com/news/local/dea-warns-of-counterfeit-pills-in-southern-nevada>

^{iv} “Las Vegas Man Pleads Guilty To Opioids Overdose Death”. (June 17, 2021). <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/las-vegas-man-pleads-guilty-opioids-overdose-death>

^v Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) “Counterfeit Pills Fact Sheet”, published December 2021, available at https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/DEA-OPCK_FactSheet_December%202021.pdf

^{vi} id

^{vii} Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2020-2021. (December 2021). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

^{viii} Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Drug Overdose Death by Drug or Drug Class in the United States, 2020-2021 (January 2022). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

^{ix} Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Drug Overdose Death by Drug or Drug Class in the United States, 2020-2021 (January 2022). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

^x Nevada Opioid Summary, Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths (December 2021). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

^{xi} Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Drug Overdose Death by Drug or Drug Class in the United States, 2020-2021 (January 2022). Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

^{xii} Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) “Counterfeit Pills Fact Sheet”, published December 2021, available at https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/DEA-OPCK_FactSheet_December%202021.pdf

^{xiii} Businesswire, “Investigation by Former FBI Director Louis Freeh Finds Congressional Drug Importation Proposals Would Pose Significant Threats”. June 6, 2017. Available at <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170606005891/en/Investigation-FBI-Director-Louis-Freeh-Finds-Congressional>

^{xiv} id