



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 21, 2021

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Salt Lake City
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San Jose
Seattle
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St. Louis Co.
Suffolk Co.
Tampa
Tucson
Tulsa
Virginia Beach
Washington DC
Wichita

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Feinstein,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 2351, the *Stop the Importation and Manufacturing of Synthetic Analogues (SIMSA) Act*. The MCCA is a professional association of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Synthetic opioids, especially fentanyl, are among the many threats facing our communities, and gaps in U.S. law have complicated law enforcement's response to this threat. Creative chemists can tweak a few molecules to create new synthetic analogues, which are technically non-scheduled, and non-controlled substances, despite being just as dangerous as traditional fentanyl. It is clear these new analogues are explicitly designed to exploit existing loopholes in the law.

By creating a new Schedule A for synthetic analogues, *SIMSA* will help address these loopholes, give law enforcement a powerful tool to protect our communities, and help save lives. Importantly, the bill strikes an appropriate balance between upholding public safety without over-criminalizing synthetic analogues or stifling research and other scientific pursuits. Finally, the legislation will help prevent future crises involving synthetic analogues. While synthetic opioids are the largest concern today, the new Schedule A will allow law enforcement to better mitigate emerging threats involving synthetic analogues of other controlled substances.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Art Acevedo
Chief, Miami Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

Calgary, Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
Montreal, Québec
Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario



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Washington DC
Wichita

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathleen Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Katko and Representative Rice,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 4459, the *Stop the Importation and Manufacturing of Synthetic Analogues (SIMSA) Act*. The MCCA is a professional association of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Synthetic opioids, especially fentanyl, are among the many threats facing our communities, and gaps in U.S. law have complicated law enforcement's response to this threat. Creative chemists can tweak a few molecules to create new synthetic analogues, which are technically non-scheduled, and non-controlled substances, despite being just as dangerous as traditional fentanyl. It is clear these new analogues are explicitly designed to exploit existing loopholes in the law.

By creating a new Schedule A for synthetic analogues, *SIMSA* will help address these loopholes, give law enforcement a powerful tool to protect our communities, and help save lives. Importantly, the bill strikes an appropriate balance between upholding public safety without over-criminalizing synthetic analogues or stifling research and other scientific pursuits. Finally, the legislation will help prevent future crises involving synthetic analogues. While synthetic opioids are the largest concern today, the new Schedule A will allow law enforcement to better mitigate emerging threats involving synthetic analogues of other controlled substances.

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