



## MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 4, 2023

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Arlington TX  
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Aurora  
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Suffolk Co.  
Tampa  
Tucson  
Tulsa  
Virginia Beach  
Washington DC  
Wichita

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Cortez Masto, Sen. Grassley, and Sen. Hassan,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for S. 993, the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer referred to as "tranq," is becoming more prevalent as a street drug in several MCCA member cities. Often mixed with illicit fentanyl, xylazine can increase the risk of a fatal overdose as its composition renders naloxone ineffective.

Since xylazine is not currently a controlled substance, the rise in illicit use has presented several challenges for local law enforcement. For example, it is easy to acquire xylazine, and it can be challenging for law enforcement to determine where in the supply chain drug traffickers are diverting it. Furthermore, some law enforcement agencies cannot test for xylazine since they do not have a controlled reference sample. This can make it difficult to discern the full extent of the threat.

The *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act* will help address these challenges by making illicit xylazine a Schedule III controlled substance. This classification will help establish a critical deterrent, slow the spread of illegal xylazine, and ensure local law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to respond effectively if and when it arrives in their jurisdiction. The reporting and other requirements that come with scheduling will also improve law enforcement's ability to identify how xylazine is entering the illicit market. Finally, since S. 993 only schedules illicit xylazine, the legislation will ensure that veterinarians and other individuals who work with animals can still easily obtain xylazine for legitimate, authorized uses.

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

Thank you for your leadership and your continued support of law enforcement. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Garcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Garcia  
Chief, Dallas Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

CC: The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
The Honorable Roger Marshall  
The Honorable James E. Risch  
The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen



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Tulsa  
Virginia Beach  
Washington DC  
Wichita

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable August Pfluger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Buck  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Pappas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Panetta, Rep. Pfluger, Rep. Bilirakis, Rep. Buck, and Rep. Pappas,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 1839, the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act*. The MCCA is a professional organization of law enforcement executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer referred to as "tranq," is becoming more prevalent as a street drug in several MCCA member cities. Often mixed with illicit fentanyl, xylazine can increase the risk of a fatal overdose as its composition renders naloxone ineffective.

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Eddie Garcia  
Chief, Dallas Police Department  
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

CC: The Honorable Don Bacon  
The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan  
The Honorable Doug Lamborn  
The Honorable Mike Thompson  
The Honorable Gabe Vasquez