



January 31, 2025

The Honorable J. Michael Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Morgan Griffith
Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Congressman Griffith:

We, the undersigned organizations, representing a significant portion of the nation's federal, state, and local law enforcement community, write to express our strong support for the *HALT Fentanyl Act* and urge the House to advance this critical legislation without delay or modification.

Fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances continue to drive a devastating public health crisis. According to the DEA's 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment, fentanyl remains the primary cause of the ongoing epidemic of drug poisoning deaths in the United States, with synthetic opioids accounting for 68 percent (74,225) of all drug poisoning deaths in 2022. It is in recognition of realities of the opioid crisis that Congress has passed numerous extensions of DEA's original 2018 temporary scheduling authority—an authority which is set to once again expire on March 31, 2025. Rather than another last-minute extension, it is time for Congress to confront the crisis head on and provide DEA with permanent scheduling authority for fentanyl-related substances.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is a crucial step forward. By permanently classifying fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, this bill gives law enforcement an important tool to combat the deadly spread of these substances. Additionally, it ensures that research on fentanyl-related substances can continue without unnecessary roadblocks by establishing a new, alternative registration process for Schedule I research.

We commend your early prioritization of this issue and your leadership in pushing this legislation forward. The opioid epidemic continues to claim the lives of hundreds of Americans every day. As this crisis escalates, every delay in addressing it only increases the toll on our communities. For the sake of public safety, it is imperative that the House pass the *HALT Fentanyl Act* as it stands, without changes, and move it forward to law.

Thank you again for your commitment to this urgent issue. We look forward to your continued leadership in advancing this legislation and ensuring that fentanyl-related substances are properly scheduled to protect our communities.

Sincerely,

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)
National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
National HIDTA Directors Association (NHDA)
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
Sergeants Benevolent Association NYPD (SBA)

cc:

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chair, Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee, U.S. House of Representatives