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The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 2, 2025

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I am reaching out on behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors across the country. With over 6,000 members nationwide, NDAA is recognized as the leading source of national expertise on the prosecution function and is a valuable resource for media, academia, government and community leaders. Today I write in strong support of S.331 the Halt All Lethal Trafficking of (HALT) Fentanyl Act.

Fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances continue to decimate communities across the country and is one of the most pressing health crises we currently face. Our members, as leaders of their communities, have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact that fentanyl and its analogues have on communities. The HALT Fentanyl Act is a critical step towards addressing the fentanyl crisis by permanently classifying fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. This change would provide law enforcement and prosecutors with the necessary tools to curb the spread of fentanyl abuse. Additionally, the bill ensures that research on fentanyl-related substances may continue, a common opposition argument to permanently having fentanyl as a Schedule I drug.

As we start a new Congress, combating the widespread abuse of illicit drugs, and specifically fentanyl is one of NDAA's top legislative priorities. Having fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances permanently as a Schedule I drug has been a long-time priority and something we have Congressionally testified in support of. Fentanyl has taken too many lives and caused too much devastation across our country. The HALT Fentanyl Act will save lives by directly targeting the fentanyl supply chain by imposing stricter penalties on those involved in the production and sale.

The fentanyl crisis is a public health emergency that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response. Permanently scheduling fentanyl and its analogues sends a strong message to families who have lost loved ones to the drug and may provide a long-deserved sense of justice by knowing the fentanyl epidemic is being properly addressed. The HALT Fentanyl Act represents a significant advancement in our collective efforts to combat the abuse of Fentanyl. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to support this important legislation and to quickly schedule its swift passage through Committee and the Senate floor.

Thank you for your efforts on this critical issue. We are confident that, with your leadership, we can make meaningful progress in the fight against fentanyl and save countless lives.

Sincerely,

Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.

Nelson Bunn
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association



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