

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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August 2, 2016

The Honorable Tom Rooney
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Rooney:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies – I am writing you regarding the Illegal Synthetic Drug Safety Act of 2016.

The use of synthetic manufactured drugs in our nation causes thousands of deaths every year. Consequently, law enforcement officials and prosecutors often lack the necessary charging authority to bring would-be drug traffickers to justice. This is due to the fact that legislation lags behind the high velocity of criminal invention and criminal enterprise in a free society.

Hundreds of thousands of counterfeit prescription pills, many containing deadly amounts of fentanyl and fentanyl-related compounds, have made their way into the U.S. drug market, according to a recently released DEA intelligence report. Law enforcement nationwide report higher fentanyl availability, seizures, and known overdose deaths than at any other time since the drug's creation in 1959.

Opiates contributed to 23,492 deaths by drug overdoses in 2013, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC also reports that heroin related deaths have increased by 340% since 2007.

In the interest of justice and public safety, FLEOA supports amending the Controlled Substances Act to treat all controlled substance analogues, other than chemical substances subject to the Toxic Substances Control Act, as controlled substances in schedule I regardless of whether they are intended for human consumption.

FLEOA appreciates your time and effort regarding Illegal Synthetic Drug Safety Act of 2016.

Respectfully,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs