



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

29 January 2025

The Honorable J. Michael Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steven J. Scalise
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Katherine M. Clark
Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Representatives Jeffries, Scalise, and Clark,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 27, the “Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act,” which may be considered on the House floor next week.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are killing Americans. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that approximately 108,000 Americans have died from a drug overdose in 2022, with 76% of those deaths—approximately 82,000—involving opioids such as fentanyl or other fentanyl-related substances. The Drug Enforcement Administration’s 2024 National Drug Threat Assessment concludes that fentanyl remains the primary cause of the ongoing epidemic of drug poisoning deaths in the United States.

In 2018, Congress gave the DEA the authority to execute class-wide scheduling of illicit fentanyl-related substances, or analogues, as Schedule I substances under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). This authority is used to combat the work of clandestine chemists employed by drug traffickers to create new synthetic variations of fentanyl by introducing minor structural modifications, resulting in new, non-controlled fentanyl analogues specifically engineered to skirt U.S. law. The DEA uses its authority under Section 201 of the CSA to place all non-scheduled fentanyl-like substances into Schedule I temporarily, on an emergency basis, meaning that anyone who possesses, imports, distributes, or manufactures any illicit fentanyl analogue is in violation of the CSA. This makes it easier for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute traffickers and criminal organizations.

Congress has repeatedly and overwhelmingly voted to extend this temporary authority, but this is not a temporary problem. If we are serious about solving our nation’s fentanyl problem and reducing the number of Americans who perish from taking these drugs, then it is time to make this authority permanent by swiftly passing H.R. 27.



The Fraternal Order of Police strongly recommends an immediate and permanent extension to ensure that illicit fentanyl and any analogues remain on Schedule I. Without granting the DEA the authority to permanently classify fentanyl analogues as they become available, our communities and American lives remain in jeopardy.

On behalf of the more than 377,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we strongly urge all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support and pass H.R. 27 to address the ongoing illicit fentanyl overdose epidemic that has gripped this country. If I can provide any additional information in support of this resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Yoes", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Darrell Basco, President, Louisiana State Lodge
Kelly Gibson, National Trustee, Louisiana State Lodge
Michael Essig, President, New York State Lodge
Joseph Battaglia, National Trustee, New York State Lodge
Todd Bramwell, President, Massachusetts State Lodge
Rich Shailor, National Trustee, Massachusetts State Lodge