



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

14 October 2015

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Charles Dent
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Dent,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for your bill, H.R. 3537, the “Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.”

The abuse of synthetic drugs has become a major problem, with increased reports from every region of the country indicating that individuals are committing violent acts while under the influence of these drugs. Many of these drugs induce elevated heart rates, increased blood pressure, and higher body temperature. They can also trigger seizures, hallucinations, and highly agitated states, which make them very dangerous not just to the user but also for those around them.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Poison Control has seen a 229% spike in calls in relation to synthetic drugs. Hundreds of these synthetic drugs are manufactured overseas in China with no regulation or medical purpose. There have also been reports of 49,000 new chemicals used in these synthetic drugs. This is costing children and teenagers their lives. Also, these synthetics are designed to keep law enforcement from finding the origin of the chemicals. The DEA says they are three steps behind the criminals when it comes to synthetics and analogues.

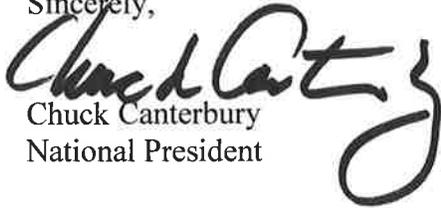
In the previous Congress, the FOP supported legislation to schedule synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and other synthetic drugs as controlled substances but chemical manufacturers have found loopholes in the current law. Under the current statute, the DEA can prosecute the sale and distribution of these drugs or “analogue” drugs- which are similar, but not chemically identical to the scheduled substances. The loophole these manufacturers are exploiting is that the law on analogue drug sales and distribution does not include any substance “not intended for human consumption.” By identifying their products in this way, prosecutions have been made incredibly difficult despite the fact that manufacturers, distributors, and sellers and abusers of these substances all know exactly what to do with them—ingest them or snort them to get a dangerous and unpredictable high.

The legislation you have introduced will declare the certain chemicals used in synthetic drugs as a Schedule 1 narcotic. This will make it illegal to manufacture, distribute, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, a controlled substance; or to create, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to distribute or dispense, a counterfeit substance.

— BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION —

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you for your continued leadership and support of law enforcement. I look forward to working with you and your staff to get this bill through Congress and give the DEA the tools they need to combat the abuse of synthetic drugs. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Chuck Canterbury
National President