



ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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JIM DRISCOLL, COCONINO COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT
MARK NAPIER, PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF, VICE PRESIDENT

THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION IS THE ONE UNITED CREDIBLE VOICE REPRESENTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY FOR THE COUNTIES OF ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 2020 - 01 ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION OPPOSES DRUG IMPORTATION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS; Arizona Sheriffs Association (ASA) is an organization comprised of all fifteen elected county sheriffs who have sworn to maintain the public trust through open, honest and ethical administration of their respective offices and exercising integrity and professionalism in the use of their constitutional powers and authority; and

WHEREAS; Arizona's Sheriffs are on the frontlines of combatting crime in their counties and are responsible for the safety and well-being of their citizens; and

WHEREAS; the Sheriffs' of the ASA have seen a sharp increase in counterfeit drug interdictions and incidences of counterfeit prescription opioid medications with deadly results in our counties¹; and

WHEREAS; In November 2019, the DEA issued a nationwide warning that 27% of seized counterfeit pills throughout the country contained potentially lethal doses of fentanyl²; and

WHEREAS; the DEA reported the seizure of over one million fentanyl pills in Arizona this fiscal year, a significant increase from 380,000 pills seized in the 2018 fiscal year³; and

WHEREAS; the DEA has reported that there is a relationship between fentanyl-containing counterfeit pills with sudden outbreaks of overdose deaths⁴; and

WHEREAS; accidental exposure to even minimal amounts of fentanyl can be enough to cause an overdose⁵ and therefore endanger the health and safety of law enforcement officers, their K-9 companions and other first responders, as the DEA has repeatedly warned and publicized⁶; and

WHEREAS; former FBI Director Louis Freeh concluded in his report that prescription drug importation proposals would open the U.S. drug supply to illegitimate products, adulterated and counterfeit drugs⁷; and

¹ AZ Family News Staff. (2017, March 21). *32 deaths in metro Phoenix attributed to fake Oxy pills*. Phoenix 3TV/CBS 5. Retrieved from <http://www.azfamily.com/story/34967208/32-deaths-in-metro-phoenix-attributed-to-fake-oxy-pills>; Murphy, V. and Roe, B. (October 2018). The battle against fentanyl: Accused drug dealer charged in connection with woman's death. Retrieved <https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/the-battle-against-fentanyl-accused-drug-dealer-charged-in-connection-with-womans-death/>

² Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). (2019, October). *Fentanyl Signature Profiling Program Report*. Retrieved from https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2019-10/DEA_Fentanyl_Signature_Profiling_Program_Report-Oct-2019.pdf

³ Arizona Independent News Network (2019, August 29). *Over One Million Fentanyl Pills Seized By Arizona Law Enforcement This Year*. Retrieved from <https://arizonadailyindependent.com/2019/08/29/over-one-million-fentanyl-pills-seized-by-arizona-law-enforcement-this-year/>

⁴ DEA. *2018 National Drug Threat Assessment*. Pages 21-37. Retrieved from <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/DIR-032-18%202018%20NDTA%20final%20low%20resolution.pdf>

⁵ DEA. (n.d.). *Fentanyl: A briefing guide for first responders*. Retrieved from http://dig.abclocal.go.com/wls/documents/DEA_Fentanyl_Publication.pdf

⁶ DEA. (2016, June 10). *DEA warning to police and public: fentanyl exposure kills*. Retrieved from <https://www.dea.gov/divisions/hq/2016/hq061016.shtml>

⁷ Freeh, Sporokin, and Sullivan LLP; Freeh Group International Solutions, LLC. (2017). *Report on the potential impact of drug importation proposals on U.S. law enforcement*. Retrieved from <https://www.iacc.org/media/report-on-the-potential-impact-of-drug-importation-proposals-on-u-s-law-enforcement>



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WHEREAS; drug importation creates a loophole for criminals to exploit and import drugs that are substandard, adulterated, misbranded, and even counterfeit⁸; and

WHEREAS; drug trafficking organizations, particularly the Sinaloa Cartel, are already in the illegitimate business of selling counterfeit fentanyl-laced pills in Arizona using their well-established smuggling routes⁹; and

WHEREAS; if these drugs are not intercepted, they will become an interior enforcement issue for county and state law enforcement; and

WHEREAS; no drug importation policy provides any additional resources to state or local law enforcement, which will hit our already overstrained rural county governments, which in turn will create an unfunded mandate for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS; drug importation would, accordingly, worsen the opioid crisis, open up the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain to adulterated and counterfeit drugs, further burden law enforcement, and endanger the safety of officers and other first responders;

THEREFORE; the ASA urges the Arizona State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to not endanger America's citizens and law enforcement while looking for realistic, meaningful and effective legislative and administrative options to lower the costs of prescription drugs; and

FURTHERMORE; the ASA agrees that drug importation is ill-conceived and will create additional drug trafficking in our country; and

FURTHERMORE; the ASA cannot support any policy with such a public health and public safety risk;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Arizona's Sheriffs stand to protect and enforce the frontier and oppose any legislation, regulation, or Administrative action that would legalize the importation of prescription drugs, which would open our nation's borders to counterfeit drugs, exacerbate the opioid crisis, exhaust law enforcement resources and endanger the public health, law enforcement and first responders.

Signed the 23rd day of January 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Driscoll".

Jim Driscoll, President
Arizona Sheriffs Association
Coconino County Sheriff

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Anita, S. (2019, February 19). *Deadly blue 'Mexican oxy' pills take toll on US Southwest*. Associated Press. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/d2296529ea94472d9f0d010f7bb99a2d>