



## ***NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION***

*455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Box 112, Washington, DC 20001*

*www.nnoac.com*

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### **Concerns of the Impact of Foreign Prescription Drug Importation on Counterfeit Prescription Medication**

FDA's announcement to authorize the first State Importation Plan (SIP) for the importation of Prescription Drugs is deeply concerning to the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition. We are deeply concerned about the impact importation of unapproved foreign prescription drugs will have on counterfeit medication in the United States, especially as FDA considers approving additional SIPs.

Counterfeit drugs, especially counterfeit pills made with fentanyl, are having a devastating impact on the United States and they are a major contributor to the thousands of drug deaths our Country is currently experiencing. Sadly, too many of our fellow Americans are dying from fake prescription pills.

Fentanyl, the synthetic opioid most commonly found in fake pills, is the primary driver in this alarming increase in overdose deaths. Recent DEA Lab Testing reveals that 7 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.

Counterfeit medications are being smuggled across the Southern Border, trafficked into the United States from foreign countries, and produced in the United States in rising numbers. Criminals and their networks are taking advantage of weak border security policies and pharmaceutical supply chain vulnerabilities.

We remain concerned about increasing the amount of substandard, adulterated, and counterfeit prescription drugs entering the United States, fueling criminal enterprises, and worsening the opioid crisis in our country. We believe that government officials, policymakers, and law enforcement must take this emergency more seriously and consider the threat when working to secure the American drug supply and control the borders of the United States.

Congress and the Federal government should reject any proposal or action that will increase the potential for more Americans to become harmed, addicted, or even killed by foreign-produced and marketed illegal drugs. Given the challenges narcotics officers are currently experiencing, the NNOAC believes foreign drug importation is ill-intended and the wrong approach. We respectfully urge Congress and the Federal Government to oppose any foreign prescription drug importation proposals that come before you and we urge FDA to meet with Federal, State and Local law enforcement partners to understand the impacts foreign prescription drug importation will have on law enforcement and public safety.