



Attorney General Doug Peterson

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2019

AG Peterson Joins Bipartisan Coalition in Calling for Fentanyl to Remain a Schedule I Drug

All 56 Attorneys General Support and Agree

Washington, D.C. – Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson today was joined in a bipartisan coalition of all 56 attorneys general in calling for Congress to permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs.

Schedule I drugs are defined as drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.

In the letter, the Attorneys General urge Congress to pass S. 2701, the Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Joe Manchin (D-WV).

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a temporary scheduling order in February 2018 to schedule fentanyl-related substances that has allowed federal law enforcement authorities to bring criminal actions against individuals who manufacture, distribute or handle fentanyl-related substances. This scheduling order is set to expire less than two months from now on February 6, 2020. The FIGHT Fentanyl Act codifies DEA precedent to schedule fentanyl-related substances.

The FIGHT Fentanyl Act will ensure law enforcement agencies and courts retain the tools needed to keep those who traffic in this deadly substance off the streets.

In the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 72,000 drug-related deaths in the United States in 2017. Of those deaths, roughly 40% involved fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound.

Attorneys general from every state, territory and the District of Columbia signed the [letter](#).

With the support of every Attorney General, the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) has chosen to endorse the legislation as one of its official policy positions. NAAG typically endorses around a dozen policies a year.

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December 11, 2019

Sen. Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 2701 – Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act

Dear Senators Graham and Feinstein,

We write today to offer our collective support for S. 2701, the Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act.

As you are likely aware, the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) temporary order classifying fentanyl-related compounds as Schedule I drugs is set to expire on February 6, 2020. The FIGHT Fentanyl Act would codify this temporary order, keeping fentanyl-related substances classified as Schedule I drugs.

In the most recent data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 72,000 drug-related deaths in the United States in 2017. Of those deaths, roughly 40% involved fentanyl or a fentanyl-related compound.

Just last month, a coalition of local, state, and federal agencies in Ohio intercepted over 20 kilograms of fentanyl, 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, and half a kilogram of heroin. Further testing revealed that the 20 kilograms of fentanyl were laced with carfentanil, which can be over 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The potency of the fentanyl-related substances in this single bust was enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the state of Ohio several times over.

This legislation is crucial to federal and state efforts to curb the opioid epidemic nationally and within each individual state. It is for these reasons that we commend Senators Portman and Manchin for their leadership in bringing forward this important legislation, and we urge you to take up and pass S. 2701 before the DEA's temporary order expires.

Yours,

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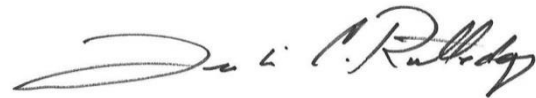
Dana Nessel
Michigan Attorney General




Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



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American Samoa Attorney General



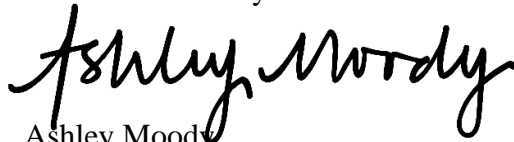
Leslie Rutledge
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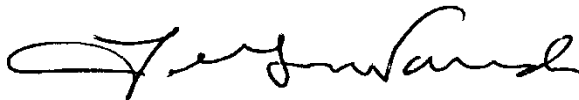
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Lawrence Wasden
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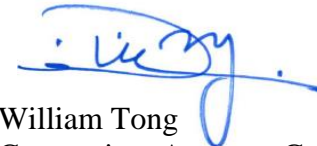
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Mark Brnovich
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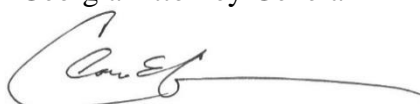
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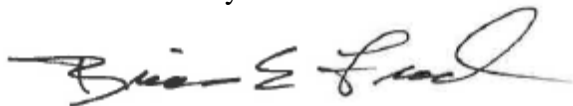
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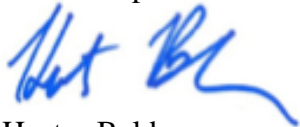
Eric S. Schmitt
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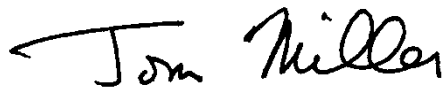
Douglas Peterson
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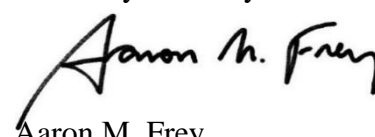
Hector Balderas
New Mexico Attorney General



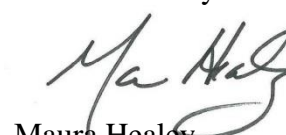
Tom Miller
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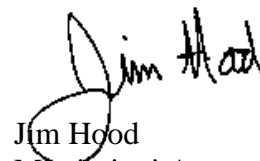
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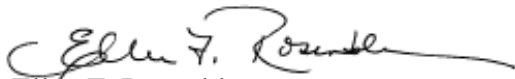
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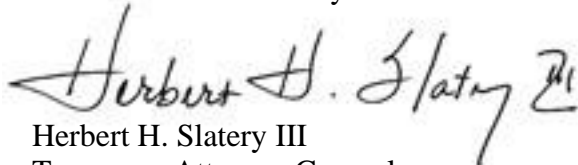
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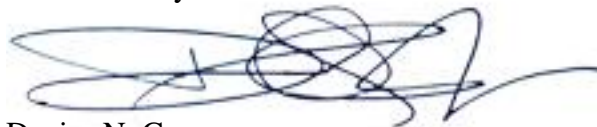
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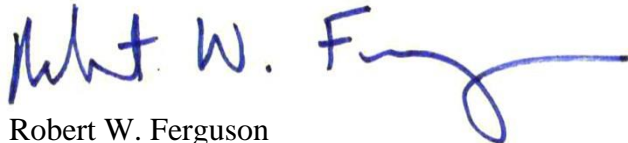
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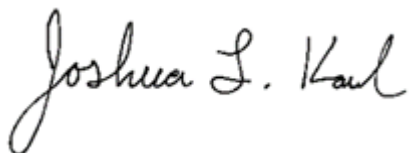
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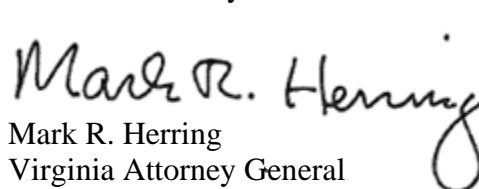
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Cc: Senator Rob Portman
Senator Joe Manchin