

May 8, 2022

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski and Feinstein,

I write to you today on behalf of the National HIDTA Directors' Association (NHDA) to express our enthusiastic support of the Bipartisan Senate Bill known as Bruce's Law, which would amend Section 102 of CARA.

The NHDA, represents the 33 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) regional programs across the country, covering all 50 states. HIDTA unequivocally concurs with this Act that will increase the public awareness on the dangers of synthetic opioids and address the crisis impacting communities all across the country. Our nation's overdose fatality rates are increasing at alarming rates and this is especially troubling as it relates to the increasing presence of fentanyl in various drugs and counterfeit pills. Overdose deaths have not only grown exponentially in recent years, but have spread to all geographic regions of the nation. This constitutes a crisis that demands immediate attention and we thank you for the timeliness of this legislation.

As this bill moves forward, I would strongly offer the assistance of HIDTA for participation and consultation of the Federal Interagency Work Group to assist them in suggestions for reducing, preventing, and responding to drug overdoses by fentanyl contamination of illegal drugs. The HIDTAs across the country stand ready to offer their assistance to the Work Group and any other Community groups looking for proven strategies to assist in these increased awareness campaigns.

We are encouraged that this legislation will bring additional resources to the HIDTAs and our partners in law enforcement, treatment, recovery, prevention and public health to fight against this contagion every day, and in every corner and facet of our American society. Your sponsorship of this legislation provides both crucial resources and awareness to target this intensifying threat that continues to devastate vast swaths of our nation.

I sincerely thank you for your leadership on this important issue and, on behalf of the membership of the NHDA, we offer our assistance in achieving this noble goal.



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