



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

June 13, 2018

RE: Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act

Dear Members of the United States House of Representatives,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization representing the legislatures of our nation's states, commonwealths and territories, we write to express our support for the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act ("STOP Act"). The STOP Act (H.R. 5788) would require advance electronic data screening of inbound shipments to the United States to facilitate identification and interception of opioids and other dangerous, counterfeit and patent-infringing goods.

As conventional commerce swiftly transitions to e-commerce, our nation is being flooded with millions of small packages originating in foreign countries. Unfortunately, statistics continue to show that a significant percentage of these packages contain counterfeit items, posing health and safety issues for unknowing consumers.¹ Current events dictate that the status quo change. Porous international shipping channels must become more resistant to the methods of e-commerce criminals. Glaring weaknesses in current protocols must be addressed.

The STOP Act would require advance electronic data screening of inbound shipments to the United States in order to facilitate identification and interception of illegal substances, including opioids, and other dangerous, counterfeit and patent-infringing goods.

Under the current climate, it is critically important that law enforcement have access to advance electronic manifest data for all packages coming into the United States. NCSL urges all members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support the STOP Act (H.R. 5788). Should you have questions or need additional information about the STOP Act, please feel free to contact Ethan Wilson (202-624-8686 / ethan.wilson@ncsl.org) or Susan Fredrick (202-624-3566 / susan.fredrick@ncsl.org).

Sincerely,

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Deb Peters
Senator – District 9
South Dakota
President, NCSL

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¹ Government Accountability Office, *Agencies Can Improve Efforts to Address Risks Posed by Changing Counterfeits Market*. GAO-18-216. January 30, 2018. In this particular study, 43 percent of items purchased online were determined to be counterfeits by the real products' manufacturers and intellectual rights holders.