



2016- 01

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE ACCESS TO ABUSE-DETERRENT OPIOIDS**

WHEREAS, the number of unintentional overdose deaths involving prescription opioids has more than quadrupled since 1999, and;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association is concerned with the welfare of citizens and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live and work in communities that are not subjected to the adverse economic, social, and public health effects of prescription drug abuse, and;

WHEREAS, studies have estimated the total societal costs of prescription drug abuse in the United States at \$55.7 billion, including \$2.3 billion in correctional facility costs and \$1.5 billion in added law enforcement costs, and;

WHEREAS, there are now available prescription opioids with abuse-deterrent properties that are designed to resist manipulation of the product for purposes of abuse but still provide patients the same pain relief as non-abuse deterrent opioids, and;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the reformulation of an opioid product to include abuse-deterrent properties has resulted in substantial and sustained reductions in abuse of that opioid product as well as an 50% reduction in diversion, which includes robberies, of the product, and;

WHEREAS, a study has estimated that in the United States the use of an abuse-deterrent opioid is associated with an estimated \$96 million in criminal justice cost savings, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association supports efforts to reduce barriers to appropriate access to and coverage of opioids with abuse-deterrent properties.

***Passed by the National Sheriffs' Association's Drug Enforcement Committee and the Board of Directors, February 2016.*