



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

AARON D. KENNARD  
Executive Director

September 16, 2013

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

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected Sheriffs nationwide to express our support for S. 1323, the "Protecting Our Youth from Dangerous Synthetic Drugs Act of 2013." By granting the Drug Enforcement Administration the authority to create and maintain a list of controlled substance analogues, as well as making the importation of these analogues illegal, your bill improves the ability of law enforcement to identify and prosecute those individuals who produce and distribute dangerous synthetic drugs.

Sheriffs know firsthand the significant threat that controlled substance analogues pose to community health and safety. This bill, by establishing a Controlled Substance Analogue Committee comprised of inter-agency experts, and then granting that committee the authority to create and maintain a list of analogues, will greatly aid in the prosecution of synthetic drug offenders by removing the possibility of courtroom disagreements over synthetic drug classification.

NSA also supports the bill's directive that the U.S. Sentencing Commission review and appropriately amend the federal sentencing guidelines to provide adequate penalties to those who purchase and distribute controlled substance analogues.

In closing, the National Sheriffs' Association applauds your effort to improve the ability of law enforcement to identify synthetic drugs and prosecute crimes involving their purchase and distribution. We thank you for your work on this important issue to protect America's youth and look forward to working with you on passage of the bill.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard  
Executive Director