



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

October 17, 2013

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the over 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I am writing to express our support for the *Synthetic Abuse and Labeling of Toxic Substances Act of 2013*. This act will help law enforcement and criminal justice entities to clearly define synthetic drugs and more efficiently prosecute crimes involving their use.

Sheriffs know firsthand the dangers of synthetic drug use and how difficult it can be to identify these substances. This bill would create clear criteria to define whether or not a controlled substance analogue is intended for human consumption. The criteria include evaluating: the marketing and labeling of a substance, the known usefulness of a substance, price valuations, the diversion of the substance from legitimate channels, and whether or not an individual user knew or should have known that the substance was intended to be injected, inhaled, ingested, or received in a similar manner. These criteria will help remove ambiguity and allow for more expedient prosecution of crimes involving controlled substance analogues.

It is crucial that we address the proliferation of synthetic drugs as this problem threatens the health and safety of our communities. On behalf of the nation's sheriffs, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication to protecting our children from the harms of synthetic drugs. NSA looks forward to working with you on this and many other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director