

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable John Carter, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
2006 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard,
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard,

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2019 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to provide full funding for the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology Act or the INTERDICT Act.

While data for 2017 is not yet complete, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) more than 64,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016. Of the 64,000 overdose deaths, more than 20,000 have been connected to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, more than twice as many as the previous year.

Mexico is the primary source for illicit fentanyl trafficked into the United States. However, China is the principal source of the precursor chemicals used to manufacture the drug, as well as a source for finished-product illicit fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, which are often shipped to the United States through the mail and express consignment carriers.

The INTERDICT Act, which passed Congress with near unanimous support and was signed into law by President Donald Trump earlier this year, authorizes Congress to spend \$9 million to provide Customs and Border Protection with the latest in technology to help stop the flow of fentanyl across the U.S. border.

This lifesaving bill will help equip Customs and Border Protection with scanning devices, as well as personnel and scientists, available during all operational hours, to prevent, detect and interdict fentanyl.

The opioid epidemic is a health crisis indiscriminately affecting communities across this country. Funding the INTERDICT Act would be an important step towards stemming the rapid influx of illicit synthetic opioids, including fentanyl.

Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Scott R. Tipton
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Barbara Constock
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Jacky Rosen
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Ann Wagner
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Tom MacArthur
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Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress




Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress



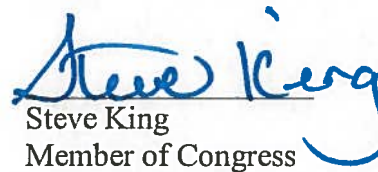
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



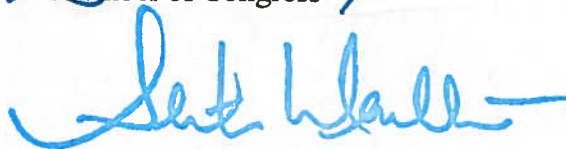
David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress




G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



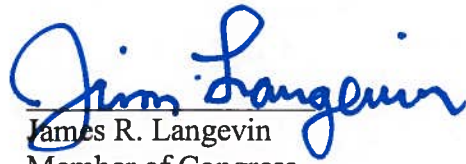
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Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress



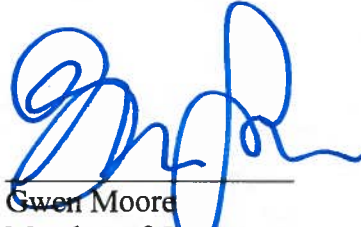
Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



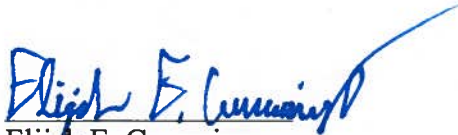
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



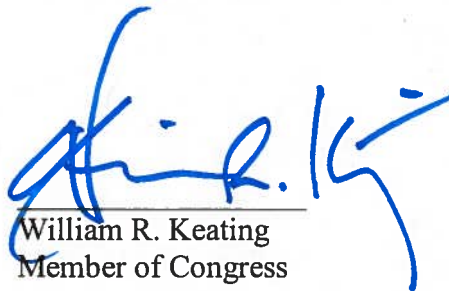
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress