



U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON

The Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024

Statements of Endorsement

Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell

"We need to take on the epidemic of fentanyl and synthetic opioids from all angles – using public health strategies to help those in need recover and deploying a public safety approach to disrupt distribution and stop the flow of poisonous drugs. This legislation would provide needed focus and federal action to reduce the trafficking of these deadly drugs through new programs, local partnerships, and technologies."

Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle

"As the Mayor of Vancouver, I support action on legislation to halt the flow of Fentanyl into our community. We are witnessing the devastating consequences of Fentanyl firsthand. This is an epidemic that must be stopped, and it must be stopped now. The actions recommended in the proposed bill are positive steps in stopping the illicit trafficking of Fentanyl. I am deeply grateful to the elected officials who are leading this critical bill to help end this crisis."

Seattle Police Chief Sue Rahr

"The fentanyl crisis hitting American cities is unlike any scourge previously seen by law enforcement, destroying families, decimating communities, and straining resources. This bill would significantly enhance our shared efforts to prevent fentanyl from entering our cities and provide welcome relief to local law enforcement agencies who see, daily, the death and suffering of those preyed upon by those who traffic in fentanyl and related substances."

Spokane Police Department Chief of Police Kevin Hall

"As the police chief in Spokane, WA., I wholeheartedly endorse the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on US Transportation Networks Act of 2024 (S. 5284). This critical legislation

addresses the urgent need to combat the trafficking of dangerous synthetic drugs that threaten our communities. By enhancing our combined law enforcement capabilities across the country and improving coordination across transportation networks, this act will protect individuals and communities from the devastating impacts of substance abuse. We can build a safer environment and future locally and nationally with the thoughtful application and funding provided by this legislation.”

Chief of the Vancouver Police Department Jeff Mori

“As the Chief of Police, I fully support any and all legislation that will stop the flow of Fentanyl into our communities. We are seeing firsthand the tragic consequences of Fentanyl; how it is destroying families and lives. No community is untouched by the devastating impact Fentanyl has had on American society. Communities everywhere are seeing increasing overdose rates that have also included infants and young children being exposed to this deadly drug. This is an epidemic that can and needs to be stopped and stopped at its source. I am grateful for the elected officials who are leading this important bill to help end the Fentanyl crisis.”

King County Sheriff Patti Cole-Tindall

“The infiltration of fentanyl into the United States has become untenable. We need to make this as difficult as possible for drug traffickers every step of the way. I thank Senator Cantwell and her co-sponsors for working to give law enforcement agencies the tools necessary to prevent these deadly drugs from making their way into our country, the communities, and the families we serve and protect.”

Spokane County Sheriff John Nowels

“Fentanyl and other illicit drugs pose a significant risk to the health and well-being of Spokane citizens. The overwhelming majority of these substances make their way to our county from neighboring foreign countries such as Mexico. Investment in technology aimed at disrupting the flow of Fentanyl and other illegal drugs into the United States is much needed and will go a long way towards securing safer communities and saving lives threatened by the opioid crisis.”

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste

“I laud Senator Cantwell’s work on the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act.”

Executive Director of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Jonathan Weiner

“Senator Cantwell introducing this important bill, Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024, will further support the development of strategies that call

for increased collaboration and leveraging advanced technologies. We applaud the introduction and will continue to support the vital work underway.”

Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association Executive Board

“Illicit, highly addictive drugs like Fentanyl and Methamphetamine have brought unspeakable harm to Washingtonians and people across the U.S. These drugs have devastated friends, neighbors, and family members and diminished livelihoods through substance use disorder and related behavioral health conditions. The members of the Washington State Narcotics Investigators Association fully support the efforts of Senator Maria Cantwell to curb the import and trafficking of these drugs and the substances used to create them. The Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024 will bring meaningful resources to bear to stem or eliminate the transport of these drugs and their precursors. We urge the adoption of this Act to improve livelihoods and reduce the horrible effects of these drugs in our communities across our nation. Thank you to Senator Maria Cantwell for her efforts to provide drug interdiction resources to our federal, state and local partners.”

Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association Laura Cooper

“The Major Cities Chiefs Association thanks Senator Cantwell for taking an innovative approach to fentanyl interdiction with the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act. In cities across the country, resources are strained and the fentanyl crisis is a factor. Federal support is welcome as MCCA member agencies work to curb this crisis and promote safer communities and public health. We look forward to additional engagement on the matter as it moves forward in Congress.”

Executive Director of the Major County Sheriffs of America Megan Noland

“The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) strongly supports the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024. This vital legislation will equip law enforcement with effective tools to combat drug smuggling and the fentanyl crisis, while also enhancing data sharing in the fight against drug trafficking. We extend our gratitude to Senators Cantwell, Tester, Baldwin, Rosen, and Luján for their leadership in advancing this important initiative.”

President of the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Directors Association F. Mike McDaniel

“The National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Directors Association appreciates Senator Cantwell’s efforts to combat the fentanyl crisis and her support for providing critically needed tools and resources for state, local, tribal and federal law enforcement to interdict fentanyl shipments before negatively impacting the communities across the country. Given the profound impact fentanyl has had on families, schools, and communities, this bill will be

instrumental in enabling law enforcement agencies participating in the HIDTA program to develop new and innovative strategies to tackle this crisis.”

President of the National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition Eric Brown

“The National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition applauds Senator Cantwell for her work on the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act. The surge in drug poisoning deaths, especially from fentanyl, shows that more needs to be done. We know that a large portion of illegal narcotics are trafficked through our transportation systems, and this legislation will provide the needed resources such as advanced detection technology and canines to enhance law enforcement’s ability to conduct inspections on our nation’s transportation systems.”

Chair of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations Matthew Gamette

"Deaths and adverse events from illicit synthetic drugs continue to be at epidemic proportions, yet funding for forensics labs remains stagnant. This bill prioritizes resources for the professionals on the front lines of the fight against illicit drugs, including fentanyl and other novel psychoactive substances. We commend members of the Commerce Committee for taking this approach to ensure our forensic experts have the necessary resources and data to combat this epidemic.”

President of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies Drew Evans

“The Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA) appreciates Senator Cantwell’s introduction of the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024. While recent figures show progress in reducing drug poisoning deaths in the U.S., we are nowhere near where we need to be to protect Americans from the ongoing threat. This bill would strengthen the ability of agencies at all levels of government to detect and disrupt drug trafficking.”

American Trucking Associations Senior Vice President of Legislative Affairs Henry Hanscom

“The spread of deadly fentanyl and other illicit drugs has taken an immense toll on American families. The trucking industry touches every corner of the country, and we are proud to join leaders like Chair Cantwell who are spearheading innovative solutions to intercept these dangerous chemicals before they reach communities. We commend Chair Cantwell and the sponsors of this bill for taking a collaborative, proactive approach to developing legislation that will help us win this important fight and save countless lives.”

Executive Director of the Airforwarders Association Brandon Fried

"The Airforwarders Association supports Senator Cantwell's thoughtful and integrated national strategic approach to interdicting illicit drugs put forward in the Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024. This bill contains all the components we know are most effective in combating this illicit trade - continued improvement in the deployment of non-intrusive technologies, further utilization of canines, and improving intelligence and information sharing among federal, state and local authorities and the private sector. We also thank Senators Tester, Baldwin, Rosen, and Lujan for their co-introduction of this bill, and we look forward to remaining engaged with Congress on this issue."