



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

AARON D. KENNARD  
Sheriff (Retired)  
Executive Director

1450 Duke St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703.836.7827 phone  
703.683.6541 fax  
exec@sheriffs.org

June 5, 2013

The Honorable Robert Latta  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2448 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson  
U. S. House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Latta and Matheson:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to you in support of H.R. 1919, the *Safeguarding America's Pharmaceuticals Act of 2013*. This bill will strengthen the security of our nation's pharmaceutical distribution chain and provide better protection against counterfeit prescription drugs.

The counterfeiting of prescription drugs is on the rise within the United States but oftentimes goes unnoticed or unreported, leaving many Americans unaware of this problem and everyone's health at risk. Furthermore, some experts have cited the counterfeiting of these medicines as even more lucrative than the trafficking of illegal drugs like heroin and cocaine.

Although pharmaceutical distribution occurs at a nationwide level, current standards for the distribution supply chain vary by state, thereby creating a patchwork of regulations and, concomitantly, opportunities for counterfeiters to infiltrate the supply chain. The *Safeguarding America's Pharmaceuticals Act* will establish a national standard of tracing requirements for manufacturers, wholesale distributors, pharmacies and repackagers based on changes in ownership. Additionally, the bill establishes a collaborative, transparent process between the FDA and stakeholders to study ways to make the pharmaceutical supply chain even more secure.

Sheriffs work every day to serve and protect our citizenry from all threats to their safety; and counterfeit drugs are a threat to everyone's safety. Accordingly, NSA applauds your efforts and supports the *Safeguarding America's Pharmaceuticals Act*.

Respectfully yours,

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

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard  
Executive Director