



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS
BROWARD DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

January 25, 2023

Representative Brad Yeager, Florida House of Representative for District 56

Suite 200

5509 Grand Boulevard

New Port Richey, FL 34652

The International Union of Police Associations (I.U.P.A.) Local 6020, the union representing the Department of Law Enforcement Deputies and Sergeants for the Broward County Sheriff's Office, currently represents approximately 1200 members. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 endorses your legislative efforts in House Bill 355 to amend Florida state statute 893.135. House Bill 355 seeks to increase the minimum term of imprisonment for an offender trafficking in 4 grams of more but less than 14 grams from 7 years to 15 years. House Bill 355 also seeks to increase the fine for trafficking in 4 grams of more but less than 14 grams from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Illicit fentanyl has plagued many communities throughout Florida as well as the entire United States. This dangerous drug is being illegally distributed throughout many communities causing devastating effects on the individuals within these communities. Unfortunately, many of these illegal distributions and trafficking of fentanyl ultimately result in the death of members in our communities. The effects fentanyl is having on our communities is detrimental. Offenders who choose to make the decision of trafficking fentanyl must face a severe consequence for committing this potentially deadly crime.

At least 18 Attorney Generals from different states joined Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody and Connecticut Attorney General William Tong in a bipartisan effort to urge President Joe Biden to classify illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction. In a news release from Attorney General Ashley Moody on September 15, 2022, it stated how more than 75,000 Americans died from overdose of synthetic opioids, mainly fentanyl, in the 12-month period preceding February



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2022.*1 Trafficking any amount of fentanyl has a severe impact on the community which is why the punishment for doing so must also be severe which is what House Bill 355 seeks to accomplish.

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 looks forward to working with you on this matter and extends all available resources at its disposal to assist with passage of House Bill 355.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Cowart

President, I.U.P.A. Local 6020

*1 [News Release - Attorney General Moody Leads Bipartisan Effort Calling on President Biden to Declare Fentanyl a Weapon of Mass Destruction \(myfloridalegal.com\)](#)